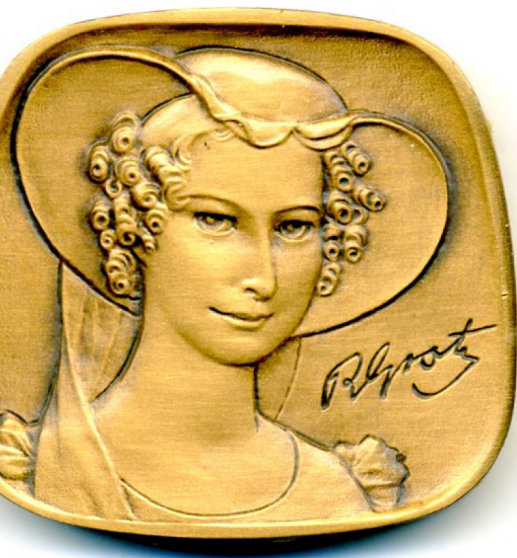


MEDALS OF THE JEWISH-AMERICAN HALL OF FAME

1969-2019



By Mel Wacks

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This book is dedicated to members of my wonderful family:

Nathan Wacks^{ז"ל}, Ben Wacks^{ז"ל}, Belle Wacks^{ז"ל},
Debra Wacks Ph.D., Shari Wacks,
Bella Wacks Spencer, and Landon Wacks Spencer.



*Designed by Joel Iskowitz
assisted by Mel Wacks.*

Thanks to these institutional leaders who have been of great help to me, and who have championed the Jewish-American Hall of Fame:

Seymour Fromer, Founding Director of the Judah L. Magnes Museum (1962-1998); Michael Feldberg Ph.D., Executive Director of the American Jewish Historical Society (1991-2004); Jay Ipson, Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Virginia Holocaust Museum (1997-2012); and Abby Schwartz, Director of the Cincinnati Skirball Museum (2013-).

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INTRODUCTION

In 1968, soon after Mel Wacks was appointed as Numismatic Consultant to the Judah L. Magnes Museum by its Director, Seymour Fromer, the first numismatic issue — a modest one — was launched: Wooden Shekels (see Appendix A).



Following the release of the Wooden Shekels, the formation of the International Judaic Commemorative Society was announced by Wacks. But Joseph Milo, Director of the Israel Coins and Medals Corporation complained that such a venture would compete with their programs. And so, it was decided that the Magnes Museum would “issue art medals portraying events and personalities in Jewish-American history.” Thus, the Jewish-American Hall of Fame series of art medals was born.

The goal was not only to raise funds for the Magnes Museum, but to raise awareness in Jews and non-Jews alike in the substantial contributions made to America — and the world — by American Jews. The project was launched with a contribution of \$500 from San Franciscan Julian Levin.

Mel Wacks, Director of the Jewish-American Hall of Fame, chose each year’s honoree, after consultation with Seymour Fromer and others—until 2010, when an Advisory Council of Jewish historians and organizational leaders was appointed to determine future inductees. Members of the Council included Diana Cohen Altman, former Director of the Klutznick National Jewish Museum; Michael Feldberg Ph.D., former Executive Director of the American Jewish Historical Society; Gail Twersky Reimer Ph.D., Founding Director of the Jewish Women’s Archive; Daniel Mariaschin, Executive Vice President of B'nai B'rith International; Richard Siegel, former Executive Director of the Foundation for Jewish Culture; and Mel Wacks. Abby Schwartz, Director of the Cincinnati

Skirball Museum joined the Advisory Council after Siegel’s untimely death in 2018.

Since 1969, over 25,000 Jewish-American Hall of Fame medals have been issued — finding homes in collections, museums, etc. around the world, as far away as China — becoming the longest continuing series of non-government art medals being issued in the United States.

Dr. Alan Stahl, currently Curator of Numismatics at Princeton University, wrote in the catalog of the *Fédération Internationale de la Médaille* (1990, Helsinki) that the Jewish-American Hall of Fame series was “[one of the most] important series of medals in recent years.”

Coin World columnist Jeff Starck, wrote in the July 30, 2012 issue that “A notable achievement of the series of [Jewish-American Hall of Fame] medals is the sheer number of respected and famous artists who have been commissioned.” These have included winners of the two most prestigious awards to medalists — the American Numismatic Association’s Numismatic Art Award for Excellence in Medallic Sculpture (Eugene Daub, Virginia Janssen, Jim Licaretz, Hal Reed, Alex Shagin, Marika Somogyi, Paul Vincze, Gerta Ries Wiener and Karen Worth), and the American Numismatic Society’s J. Sanford Saltus Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Art of the Medal (Eugene Daub, Alex Shagin and Karen Worth).

The Jewish-American Hall of Fame expanded to the Internet in 1997, in a website named www.amuseum.org. The website features a virtual tour through 500 years of American Jewish history, illustrated by Jewish-American Hall of Fame medals, quizzes about all of the honorees, and much more. It won the Numismatic Literary Guild’s award for the Best Non-Commercial Web Site. In 2001, the Jewish-American Hall of Fame became a Division of the American Jewish Historical Society. Beginning in 2010, the Jewish-American Hall of Fame plaques went on permanent view at the Virginia Holocaust Museum, in Richmond. And in 2019, the Jewish-American Hall of Fame Medals Collection of the Cincinnati Skirball Museum was established.

PREFACE

In his discussion of Series of American Medals, on the website of Medal Collectors of America, Dick Johnson writes: "The first public subscription medal series began with the Circle of Friends of the Medallion (1909-1915). But the grand dame of all American medal series was — and still is — The Society of Medalists (129 medals in all, 1930-1995)." In this category, Dick also lists the medals issued by the Hall of Fame for Great Americans, from 1962 through 1974, and by the Jewish-American Hall of Fame, beginning in 1969.

Please note that all of these are "Art Medals," which generally are larger, have high relief, and have antique patinas (finishes) — as opposed to the shiny coin-size medals issued by the Franklin Mint and their ilk.

So what is the attraction of collecting a series of medals that are issued at the rate of one or perhaps a few each year? Perhaps it is similar to the appeal of popular characters who appear in an author's book about once a year or a popular movie theme and its sequels. It is the attraction of a familiar theme and style that one likes and looks forward to seeing the latest version. There is also the collecting aspect — where collectors have the desire to maintain a complete set. Whatever

the reason, the Jewish-American Hall of Fame has had the benefit of a loyal cadre of collectors who support this project year after year.

Many of these people originally found out about the Jewish-American Hall of Fame medals in coin columns in their local newspapers, like the New York Times, Philadelphia Enquirer, etc. Unfortunately these coin columns in newspapers have all but disappeared. However, numismatic publications have always supported us, and numerous articles have appeared over the years in The Numismatist, Coin World (see below) and Numismatic News. More recently our medals have received publicity in e-publications such as E-Sylum and CoinsWeekly.

If you didn't have the opportunity of buying Jewish-American Hall of Fame medals when they were issued, now you can try to acquire examples that you like or to assemble a complete collection by buying on eBay or from dealers. But it is not easy, since mintages are very low — as few as 100 bronze, 55 pure silver, and a minuscule 8 gold-plated silver. Remember, the fun is in the hunt!



JUDAH L. MAGNES

1877 - 1948



MEDALIST: Victor Ries

OBVERSE: Library of Hebrew University and Shrine of the Book; JUDAH L. MAGNES (English and Hebrew), VR, 1877-1948.

REVERSE: SEEK TRUTH WITHOUT FEAR.

Judah Leon Magnes was born in San Francisco, and grew up in Oakland, California. He later became the first native Californian to receive a rabbinical degree from the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati. Magnes went on to serve at Temple Israel in Brooklyn (1904) and at Temple Emanu-El in New York City (1908), one of the most influential positions in American Reform Jewry. A few years later, Magnes headed the conservative Congregation B'nai Jeshurun.

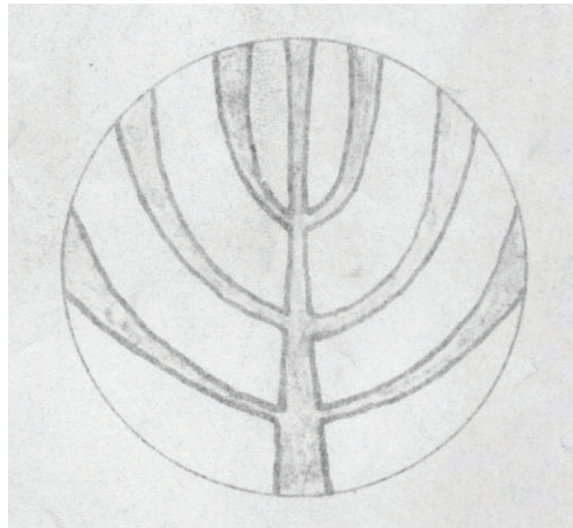
In 1909, Magnes founded the Kehillah, a union of diverse Jewish communal organizations in New York City. He remained its president during the entire time of its existence, through 1922, and is credited with changing the emphasis from charities to social work. With seemingly boundless energy, Magnes also helped to found the Yiddish daily "Der Tag," the Society for the Advancement of Judaism, the American Civil Liberties Union, and the Joint Distribution Committee. He was Secretary of the Federation of American Zionists and a lifelong friend

of Henrietta Szold, with whom he helped turn a small women's social group into the world's largest Zionist organization — Hadassah.

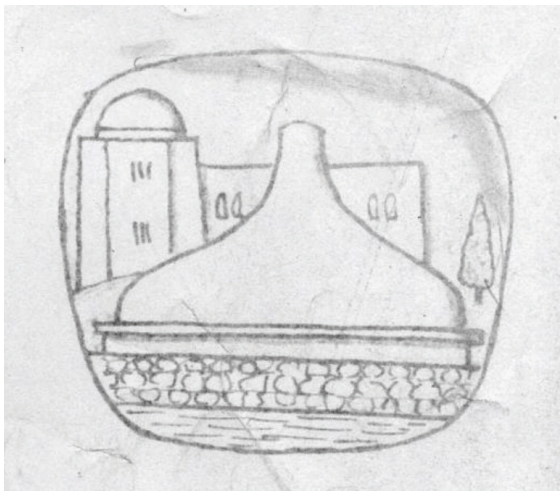
Probably Judah L. Magnes' greatest work was done on behalf of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, of which he was a founder and the first president. Dr. Magnes is given much of the credit for making the University the world-renowned institution that it is today.

Magnes was an outspoken leader in the campaign for the establishment of a Jewish homeland. His compassion for people — all people — led him to appeal for a bi-national state of Jews and Arabs. He has been called the "Jewish Gandhi" because of his constant work on behalf of both independence and harmony in the Holy Land. Just before the United Nations made its momentous decision establishing the State of Israel, Magnes spoke before the world body. Unfortunately, he became ill shortly after, and was buried in his beloved Jerusalem.

THE BACK STORY



Victor Ries proposed a number of different possible designs in the usual round shape.



Ries also sketched several possible obverse designs using a rounded trapezoidal shape.



The final designs used the rounded trapezoidal shape, although it was inverted from the original drawings.

ALBERT EINSTEIN

1879 - 1955



MEDALIST: Robert Russin

OBVERSE: Portrait, RUSSIN.

REVERSE: Peace symbol within the umbra of a solar eclipse, THE HIGHEST RELIGION IS THE SERVICE OF HUMANITY, Albert Einstein (signature) 1979-1955.

Born in the German town of Ulm, Albert Einstein spent his early youth in Munich. While attending Zurich Polytechnic Institute he became a Swiss citizen. After graduating in 1890, he took a post at the Swiss Patent Office in Berne and carried out experiments on his own time. In 1905, he published three scientific papers, including one that would make his name a household word — the Special History of Relativity. Einstein demonstrated that motion is relative and that physical laws must be the same for all observers moving relative to each other. In addition, his famous equation $E=mc^2$ showed that mass and energy are equivalent. He received the Nobel Prize for physics in 1921 for his explanation of the photoelectric effect.

Another paper, published in 1920, predicted that large masses would deflect planets or light rays from their paths; this was proven correct when it was shown that starlight was deflected by the gravitational field of the sun during a total eclipse of the sun in 1919.

Einstein's interests were not confined to his research alone. His friend and collaborator Dr. Otto Nathan writes: "Except for his devotion to science,

no cause was more important or closer to his heart than the determination that the institution of war be forever abolished."

Einstein advocated a United Europe in 1914, and welcomed the establishment of the League of Nations in 1919 and the United Nations in 1945. He was also deeply concerned with Jewish affairs, and devoted his active interest to the creation of Brandeis University. Also, Einstein was convinced that the cultural survival of the Jews depended on the establishment of their own national homeland — Israel — with peaceful coexistence between Arabs and Jews necessary for success.

After the death of Chaim Weizmann, when Einstein was asked if he would accept the presidency of Israel, the 73 year old scientist wrote: "I am deeply moved by the offer from our State of Israel, and at once saddened and ashamed that I cannot accept it. I am the more distressed ... because my relationship to the Jewish people has become my strongest human bond, ever since I became aware of our precarious situation among the nations of the world."

46 x 45 mm / Medallion Art Company
810 Bronze / **290** Pure Silver / **8** Gold-Plated Pure Silver
 100 nickel-silver medals were embedded in lucite for the
 Alumni Association of Einstein College.

THE BACK STORY



Professor Robert Russin working on the clay model of Einstein's portrait, and that model in an interim stage.

Early stage of the reverse. Note that the peace symbol was later reduced in size. At Russin's request, Medallion Art Company added the reverse inscription.



LOUIS D. BRANDEIS

1856 - 1941



MEDALIST: Gerta Ries Wiener

OBVERSE: Portrait; JUSTICE LOUIS BRANDEIS 1856-1941, Gerta Wiener.

REVERSE: MAKE REAL THE BROTHERHOOD OF MAN.

In 1916, Louis Brandeis' nomination to the Supreme Court, by President Woodrow Wilson, aroused much consternation in some circles; even the staid Wall Street Journal called him a "rabid ... super-extreme ... anti-corporation agitator." Anti-Semitism also raised its ugly head with the first Jewish nominee to the High Court. However, Brandeis had the support of the people, as his nickname ("The People's Lawyer") revealed, for his crusades on behalf of consumer protection and women's rights, and against monopolistic practices.

While Brandeis won fame as a dissenter on the bench, he was actually in the majority far more often than the minority. His dissenting opinions were of quality not quantity. However, these were highly significant because, in stating his belief in the "living law," in many instances Brandeis stated the law as it was yet to be. In a speech made to a Boston

audience in 1914, Justice Brandeis stated: "America's fundamental law seeks to make real the brotherhood of man. America's insistent demand in the twentieth century is for social justice."

When World War I broke out, Brandeis agreed to serve as Chairman of the Provisional Committee for General Zionist Affairs. "My approach to Zionism," he said, "was through Americanism. Gradually it became clear to me that to be good Americans we must be better Jews, and to be better Jews we must become Zionists."

Brandeis' close relations with President Wilson and high administrative officials played an important part in securing support for the Balfour Declaration, whereby Great Britain "views with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people."

45 x 43 mm / Medallie Art Company
 430 Bronze / 220 Pure Silver / 8 Gold-Plated Pure Silver
 (Mintages have been determined, as accurately as possible, from original records.)

THE BACK STORY



Victor Ries was asked to design the medal honoring Louis Brandeis, but since he did not sculpt portraits, he asked his sister, Gerta Ries Wiener, to take over the assignment — in spite of the fact that she had never before designed a medal. This was serendipity, since Gerta Ries Wiener went on to sculpt a total of eleven Jewish-American Hall of Fame medals.

On April 9, 1971 Gerta Ries Wiener sent Mel Wacks the above photos with the note: "This is the plasticene version and will be sharpened in the plaster of Paris." Later that month, Wiener wrote: "It is, of course, always a challenge to have to do a good portrait of a person you have never seen and

will never be able to see — painting or sculpture — as a portrait is, or should be much more than a literal rendition of features. I had to rely on whatever kind of photos of his head I could obtain, and they were none too good for my purpose. They showed him either too young or too old, and had the lack of character of many newspaper portraits of prominent people. But having a strong mental image of the man from what he had been and said helped me, I hope, to express some of his personality through my work."

Gerta Ries Wiener's letters to Mel Wacks are now in the collection of the Smithsonian Institution's Archives of American Art.



Victor Ries was not happy with his sister's designs; in a letter dated May 24, 1971 from Seymour Fromer that included the above sketch by Fromer, Director of the Judah Magnes Museum, Victor suggested: "removing the heavy lines and moving the words THE and OF MAN to the left or off center." Ries also suggested "to move the face (of Brandeis) to the right ... As it stands now the middle is not acceptable." Gerta Ries Wiener did not make these changes.

GEORGE GERSHWIN

1898 - 1937



MEDALIST: Robert Russin

OBVERSE: Portrait, RUSSIN.

REVERSE: Gershwin's hands on piano keyboard, JAZZ IS THE RESULT OF ENERGY STORED IN AMERICA, George Gershwin (signature) 1898-1937.

George Gershwin was a very normal boy — he was the undisputed roller skating champion of his neighborhood on the Lower East Side of New York. He even felt that youngsters who went in for music were sissies. But one day a young violinist, Max Rosen, played for his fellow classmates at PS 25. George had not been interested enough to attend the performance, but heard it through the assembly hall window. Gershwin later wrote: "It was, to me, a flashing revelation of beauty."

Max opened the world of music to George, and George taught Max wrestling. One climactic day, his friend told George that he had better give up all thoughts of a musical career, saying "You haven't it in you; take my word for it." Fortunately for American music, George ignored his friend's advice.

Gershwin wrote his first songs while working as a pianist with a music publishing firm; and his first

revue Half Past Eight opened in 1918.

George Gershwin tragically did not live to be 40, but his music will live forever. He was equally at home writing "pop" tunes, such as Swanee, The Man I Love, 'S Wonderful, and I Got Rhythm; musical comedies like Oh Kay, Girl Crazy, and Of Thee I Sing; serious music: Rhapsody in Blue, Concerto in F, and An American in Paris; and he even pioneered in creating a genuine American folk opera: Porgy and Bess. Most of the lyrics for his revues and songs were written by his brother Ira (1896-1983).

Rhapsody in Blue, commissioned by Paul Whiteman as a "jazz symphony," made jazz respectable for the American concert stage after it was performed in New York in 1924 — and it made Gershwin famous. In less than two decades of productivity, George Gershwin left an indelible impression upon his country's culture.

THE BACK STORY



Professor Russin near the completion of Gershwin's portrait in clay.

Russin making final adjustments to reverse plaster. Note that lettering has been touched up in photo to make inscription clearer.



HAYM SALOMON

1740 - 1785



MEDALIST: Paul Vincze

OBVERSE: Portrait, PROCLAIM LIBERTY THROUGHOUT ALL THE LAND (LEV. 25:10) • HAYM SALOMON 1740-1785, P.VINCZE.

REVERSE: Salomon writing, with American cavalry in background, 1776 in exergue, P. VINCZE.

In the early 1770's, Haym Salomon left his family in Poland and arrived in New York on the eve of the Revolution. His command of German made him welcome to the Hessian forces, which he served as a supplier of goods. When the British suspected him of spying, Salomon was arrested and confined to prison for a time.

Salomon's command of several languages enabled him to serve as a broker to the French officials in Philadelphia. Salomon prospered and was able to be financially helpful to a number of public figures, such as Alexander Hamilton and James Madison. In 1782, Madison acknowledged the "kindness of our little friend in Front Street, whose assistance will preserve me from extremities but I never resort to it without great mortification as he obstinately rejects all recompense."

When Haym Salomon died prematurely in January 1785, he held \$353,000 — largely in depreciated certificates of indebtedness and

continental currency — all virtually worthless.

The Pennsylvania Packet wrote "He was remarkable for his skill and integrity in his profession and for his generous and humane deportment."

Haym Salomon was actively involved in Jewish community affairs. He was a member of Mikveh Israel Congregation in Philadelphia, and made the largest single contribution to the erection of its first building in 1782. The following year, Salomon joined with other prominent Jews in an address to the Pennsylvania Council of Censors, urging them to remove the religious test oath required for office holding under the State Constitution. And in 1784, he responded to a personal slander in the press by proclaiming: "I am a Jew; it is my own nation ... I do not despair ... that we shall obtain every other privilege that we aspire to enjoy along with our fellow-citizens."

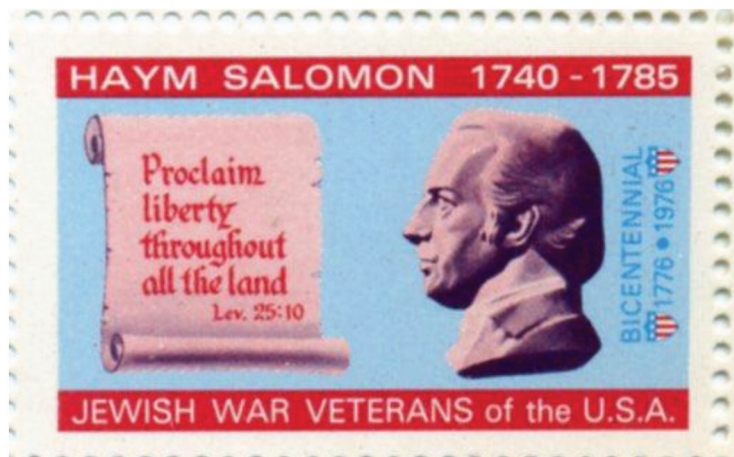
Extracted from a paper by Dr. Samuel Rezneck, Professor Emeritus of History, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

THE BACK STORY



Original plaster model had error of "LEV. 52:10" — which was corrected to "LEV. 25:10" — before medals were struck.

Stamp-like labels issued to raise funds for the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. were based on the Jewish-American Hall of Fame's Haym Salomon medal.



HERBERT H. LEHMAN

1878 - 1963



MEDALIST: Jacques Schnier

OBVERSE: Portrait, HERBERT H. LEHMAN 1878-1963.

REVERSE: Tzadik (Hebrew: righteous one) within Star of David, TO DO JUSTLY, LOVE MERCY, AND WALK HUMBLY WITH THY GOD, MIC. 6:8, JS monogram.

Upon graduation from Williams College in 1899, Herbert Henry Lehman joined his father's investment banking firm — Lehman Brothers. He began a long career in public service when he was commissioned as a captain in the War Department Ordnance Bureau during World War I, where he eventually rose to the rank of colonel in the War Claims Board. After several visits to devastated Europe, he helped found the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

Lehman became active in politics, and was elected as Lieutenant Governor of New York, with Franklin Delano Roosevelt as Governor, in 1928. He was Roosevelt's right hand man, and was elected Governor in 1932 by an unprecedented plurality of close to a million votes. Lehman fought for a wide range of minimum wage, social security and general welfare bills during and following the Depression — and was reelected four more times. He resigned in 1942 to become head of the newly formed United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, whose task was to minister to the war-torn civilian

populations of the former Axis-occupied areas. England's Noel-Baker gave Lehman the following testimonial: "No tougher assignment was ever faced by any man. He has carried it through. His greatest service has been the moral authority which he has established with the governments and the peoples of the world."

At the age of 72, Herbert H. Lehman took on another major public service — as New York's Senator. In Congress, he courageously crusaded against McCarthyism and restrictive immigration quotas. This immigrant's son eloquently spoke before the President's Commission on Immigration and Naturalization in 1952, saying: "This [quota] system is based on the same discredited racial theories from which Adolph Hitler developed the infamous Nuremberg Laws. It is the complete denial of Americanism. To defend ourselves against the evil implications of this concept we recently fought a great war ... and sacrificed hundreds of thousands of American lives, including untold numbers whose names were not Smith, Brown or Jones."

THE BACK STORY



Jacques Schnier holds the plaster model for the 1936 Bay Bridge Commemorative Half Dollar, the only other numismatic item that he created besides the Herbert H. Lehman medal.

The 1936 Bay Bridge Commemorative Half Dollar.



GERSHOM MENDES SEIXAS

1745 - 1816



MEDALIST: Gerta Ries Wiener

OBVERSE: Portrait, Gershom Seixas (script) 1745-1816.

REVERSE: Seixas leading congregants out of Spanish-Portuguese Synagogue (New York), carrying ceremonial objects, Gerta Wiener.

In late August, 1776, when news came that the British were approaching New York, Rabbi Gershom Mendes Seixas of Congregation Shearith Israel (The Spanish-Portuguese Synagogue) decided to close the synagogue rather than keep it open under British rule.

There were many men in America's oldest congregation who had been so outspoken against the Crown, that their lives would have been in jeopardy. Seixas saw to it that all of the ceremonial objects — the scrolls, prayer books and candlesticks — were taken away for safekeeping. At the close of the Revolutionary War, Reverend Seixas returned all of these items to the congregation, where they can be seen to this day.

Seixas not only fought the British, but fought intolerance as well. In 1783, he successfully sought revisions in a constitutional clause, newly adopted by the Pennsylvania legislature, requiring a religious examination for office seekers. He was one of fourteen clergymen participating in George Washington's first

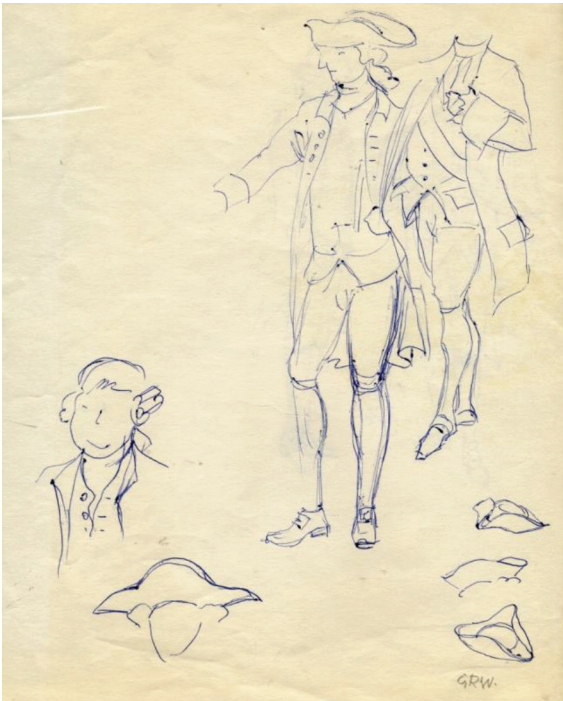
inaugural (1787), and continued to be one of the most vigorous defenders of the much-maligned James Madison administration during the War of 1812.

Gershom Mendes Seixas, the first native-born Jewish minister in the United States, was also active as a trustee in the Humane Society and as one of the first Regents of the New York State University. He was also the only non-Episcopalian to serve as a trustee of Columbia University, from 1787 to 1815.

The Seixas family has contributed many prominent Americans—Gershom's brother, Abraham Mendes (1751-99), was an officer in the Revolutionary Army; another brother, Benjamin Mendes (1748-1817), was one of the founders of the New York Stock Exchange; and a third brother, Moses Mendes (1744-1809), was one of the organizers of the Bank of Rhode Island and the president of the historic Newport Synagogue. Gershom's son, David, established the Deaf and Dumb Institute in Philadelphia, and was among the first to discover efficient ways of burning anthracite coal.

47 x 45 mm / Medallion Art Company
250 Bronze / 205 Pure Silver

THE BACK STORY



Gerta Ries Wiener sketched examples of colonial clothing while doing research for the reverse design of the Gershom Mendes Seixas medal.



Wiener's preliminary sketches for the reverse of the Gershom Mendes Seixas medal.

HENRIETTA SZOLD

1860 - 1945



MEDALIST: Gerta Ries Wiener

OBVERSE: Portrait, HENRIETTA SZOLD 1860-1945, Gerta Wiener.

REVERSE: Szold with children in Youth Aliya program, MAKE MINE EYES LOOK TOWARDS THE FUTURE • THE HEALING OF THE DAUGHTER OF MY PEOPLE (Hebrew).

Henrietta Szold was born in Baltimore, Maryland in 1860, a little more than a year after her parents arrived from Hungary. Her father, a prominent rabbi, gave Henrietta the attention and education usually reserved for an eldest son. She learned German, English, French and Hebrew. In 1899, she took on the lion's share of producing the first American Jewish Year Book, for which Szold was the sole editor from 1904 to 1908.

In 1909, Ms. Szold first visited Palestine. During her tour she was impressed both by the beauty of the land and the misery and disease among the people. And so, with the support of Rabbi Judah L. Magnes, she formed Hadassah in 1912. Within a year, the fledgling organization had two American nurses in Jerusalem. Today, Hadassah's great hospitals in Jerusalem are world famous, treating over 25,000 patients and handling over 1.5 million medical tests annually, for Jews and Arabs alike.

The Henrietta Szold-Hadassah School of Nursing has trained over 1,500 nurses, and the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School has graduated more than 1,300 doctors.

In 1933, at the age of 73, Szold embarked on a major new project, rescuing Jewish children from the oncoming Holocaust. Despite obstacles in dealing with the British Mandate government in Palestine, by 1948 her Youth Aliya program had brought 30,000 children from troubled Europe to Palestine. Even at the age of 81, Henrietta Szold accepted a new challenge — planning the Fund for Child and Youth Care.

Today, Hadassah's third of a million members and 1,350 chapters around the world make it one of the largest philanthropic organizations, as well as a living tribute to the hard work and vision of its founder, Henrietta Szold.

47 x 45 mm / Medallion Art Company
300 Bronze / 180 Pure Silver

THE BACK STORY



Wiener indicated that "[Szold] looks serious but with a little smile, as I imagine she may have looked. As she was a writer I think that the book is a good touch." Henrietta Szold's hands were enlarged from the clay version by the time sculptress Gerta Ries Wiener had cast the plaster model, and other changes were made. The mint made an additional unauthorized change when they extended the areas below and to the left and right sides of the book.

After Ms. Wiener thought that she had completed the plaster models, an officer of Hadassah asked her to add the organization's motto in Hebrew "The healing of the daughter of my people," which Wiener reluctantly did.



TOURO SYNAGOGUE

1763



MEDALIST: Victor Ries

OBVERSE: Touro Synagogue, NATIONAL • HISTORIC • SITE • TOURO • SYNAGOGUE • NEWPORT • RHODE • ISLAND • DEDICATED • 1763, VR monogram.

REVERSE: Torah crowns and rimmonim, THE UNITED STATES GIVES TO BIGOTRY NO SANCTION, TO PERSECUTION NO ASSISTANCE • GEORGE WASHINGTON.

On August 31, 1947, the National Park Service of the United States Department of the Interior unveiled a bronze tablet designating the Touro Synagogue of Newport, Rhode Island as a National Historic Shrine. This handsome colonial building is the oldest standing synagogue in the United States. It was designed by Peter Harrison, who combined his Georgian Colonial style with the traditional synagogue architecture of the Spanish and Portuguese Jews. The Reverend Ezra Styles described the building as "the most perfect of the Temple kind perhaps in America," when he attended its dedication in 1763.

President George Washington visited Newport on August 17, 1790 when he was presented with a letter from Moses Seixas, President of the Congregation, extolling the new government, "which to bigotry gives no sanction, to persecution no assistance." In his reply, Washington repeated this moving phrase, which has been credited to him ever since.

President Truman wrote to the Congregation in 1947, saying: "The setting apart of this historic shrine as a national monument is symbolic of our tradition of freedom, which has inspired men and women of every creed, race and ancestry to contribute their highest gifts to the development of our national culture."

Isaac Touro, native of Holland, was appointed Hazan (Minister) of Yeshuat Israel Congregation even before construction began in 1759. He served as spiritual leader until the British occupied Newport in December 1776, after which most of the Jews left, relinquishing much of their wealth.

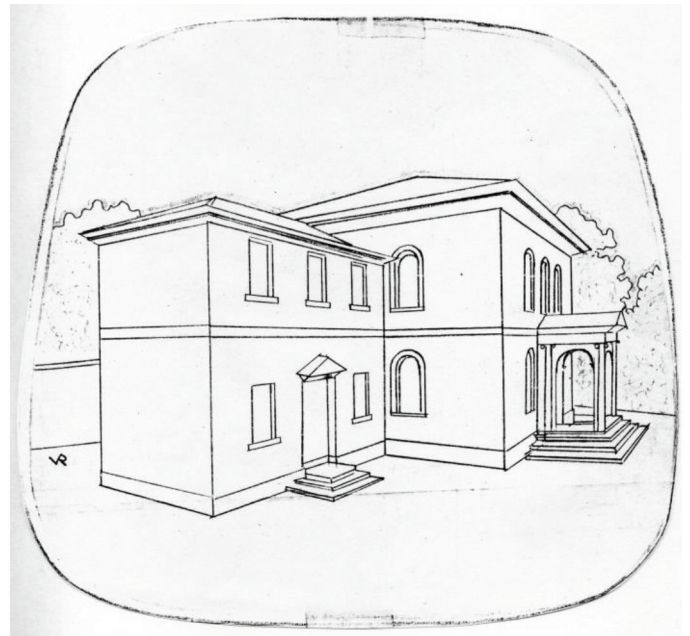
Isaac Touro's son, Judah, born on June 16, 1775, was raised by his uncle in Boston. In 1801, Judah sought his fortune in New Orleans, where he prospered as a merchant. He served as a volunteer in the American Army at the Battle of New Orleans (1815), where he was severely wounded. Judah Touro's real claim to fame was the generosity of the bequests

made in his will. He donated a total of \$143,000 to congregations, schools, and other Jewish institutions in seventeen cities throughout America, including \$10,000 to the Congregation in Newport, henceforth known as the Touro Synagogue.

Judah Touro's gifts to non-Jewish institutions in New Orleans, Boston and Newport totaled an additional \$153,000. Another bequest, from his brother, Abraham, was used to erect Touro Synagogue's front gate in 1843.

THE BACK STORY

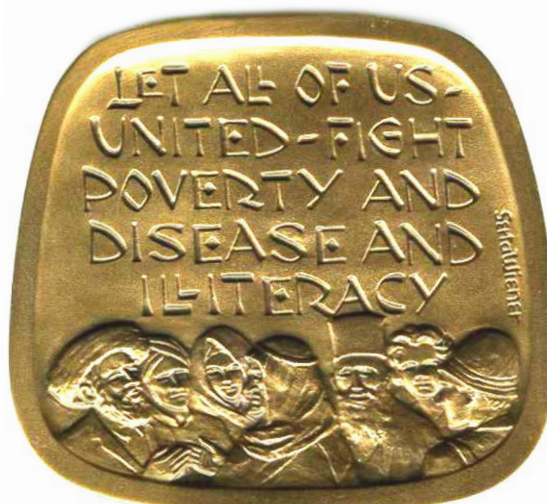
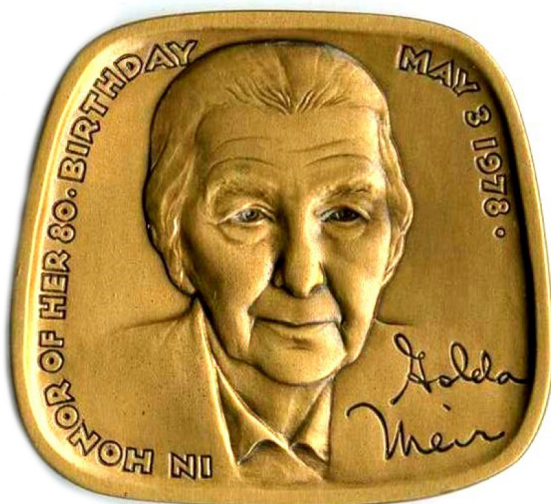
Initially, the interior of the Touro Synagogue was to appear on the medal. However, in a letter dated October 22, 1976 to Mel Wacks, Director of the Jewish-American Hall of Fame, Ries writes: "The inside of the synagogue is the trouble spot. I hammered this the way I did with the toroth [reverse design]. It looked lousy, so I destroyed it. I called Mr. Fromer (Director of the Magnes Museum) ... and we both decided to drop it and use the outside of the Temple." Wacks wrote on October 30 to Ries saying it was "okay if you use the exterior," and asked "Could I possibly see a sketch of your design?" That sketch is shown to the right.



Ries based his reverse design on these Rimonim, pictured on a postcard published by Society of Friends of Touro Synagogue. The text indicates that "Two sets of Rimonim are the work of Myer Myers, New York, famous colonial silversmith."

GOLDA MEIR

1898 - 1978



MEDALIST: Gerta Ries Wiener

OBVERSE: Portrait, IN HONOR OF HER 80 • BIRTHDAY MAY 3 1978 • Golda Meir (signature).

REVERSE: Group of men and women of different religions and sects living in Israel, LET ALL OF US—UNITED—FIGHT POVERTY AND DISEASE AND ILLITERACY, Gerta Wiener.

Born in Kiev, Russia, Golda Mabovitch's family emigrated to the United States, settling in Milwaukee in 1906. From the time, at the age of ten, that she organized the American Young Sisters' Society to provide textbooks for the needy school children, Golda dedicated her life to solving the problems of others.

An avowed Zionist since she settled in a kibbutz in Palestine with her husband, Morris Myerson, in 1921, Golda soon became involved in political activities. She served as an emissary to the Pioneer Women's Organization in the United States from 1932-4, and after her return to Palestine, joined the Executive Committee of the Histadrut, the General Federation of Israel Labor. Golda soon rose to become head of Histadrut's Political Department, and in 1946 served in the same role for the Jewish Agency until the establishment of the State of Israel two years later.

Golda's perilous secret meeting with King Abdul-lah of Jordan, just before the Arab invasion was a dramatic attempt for last minute conciliation.

David Ben-Gurion appointed Golda as Minister to Moscow, and in 1949 she became Minister of Labor. She initiated large scale housing and road-building programs, and vigorously supported the policy of unrestricted immigration.

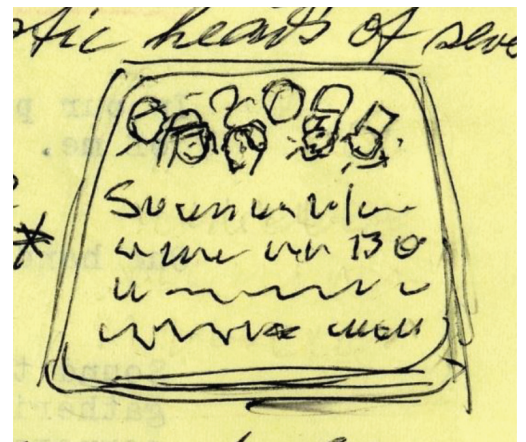
It was not until Golda was appointed Foreign Minister, that she Hebraized her last name to Meir, at the behest of Ben-Gurion. As Foreign Minister (1956-1965), Golda was often Israel's spokesperson at the United Nations, where she pleaded for all of those who call the Holy Land home to "united, fight poverty and disease and illiteracy."

After the death of Levi Eshkol in 1969, Golda Meir became the fourth Prime Minister of Israel. Originally thought to have been a stop-gap appointment, she went on to lead her party to victory in the next election, and continued to carry on indirect negotiations with Egypt through the outbreak of the Yom Kippur War in 1973.

Despite her eminence, she was called simply "Golda" to everyone in Israel and on her frequent travels around the world.

47 x 45 mm / Roger Williams Mint
465 Bronze / 245 Pure Silver / 25 14kt Gold

THE BACK STORY



Gerta Ries Wiener sent Mel Wacks rough sketches of the Golda Meir medal designs in her letters.



Early plaster model, which later was modified.

LEVI STRAUSS

1829 - 1902



MEDALIST: Hal Reed

OBVERSE: Portrait, Everyone knows his first name, Levi Strauss (signature), HR monogram.

REVERSE: Woodchopper, cowboy on horse, and gold panner, Levi's logo.

Levi Strauss was 17 years old when he emigrated from Bavaria to New York in 1847. He worked for his two brothers, peddling clothing and household items throughout towns and villages in rural New York and Kentucky. Spurred on by exciting tales of opportunities for instant wealth in the California Gold Rush,, Strauss sailed to San Francisco on a clipper ship in 1850, loaded with canvas for tents and wagons. But after a short visit to the gold country, he realized there was a better use for the durable material. He took his unsold canvas to a tailor and had them fashioned into overalls. He later switched from canvas to a tough cotton fabric loomed in Nimes, France — called serge de Nimes (denim).

In the 1860s Jacob Davis, a tailor in Carson City, Nevada, began riveting the pocket corners on miner's pants for added strength. Strauss liked the idea, and jointly with Davis applied for a patent, which was granted in 1873.

Strauss was a very generous man; in 1897 he contributed 28 perpetual scholarships to the University of California. Upon his death in 1902, he bequeathed tens of thousands of dollars to charitable institutions such as the Pacific Hebrew Orphan Asylum, Home for Aged Israelites, as well as to Roman Catholic and Protestant orphanages.

During World War II, Levi's® were declared an essential commodity and were sold only to people engaged in defense work. Following the war, there was such an overwhelming demand for Levi's® that deliveries had to be rationed for almost two years. Today Levi Strauss & Co. is one of the largest apparel manufacturers in the world. The company's motto, "Everyone knows his first name," refers to the fact that Levi's® has entered the world's vocabulary as a generic term for blue jeans.

Extracted from a brochure published by Levi Strauss & Co., San Francisco.

THE BACK STORY

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JACOB W. DAVIS, OF RHENO, NEVADA, ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF AND LEVI STRAUSS & COMPANY, OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN FASTENING POCKET-OPENINGS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 139,121, dated May 10, 1873; application filed August 9, 1872.

To all whom it may concern: Be it known that I, JACOB W. DAVIS, of Reno, county of Washoe and State of Nevada, have invented an Improvement in Fastening Seams; and I do hereby declare the following description and accompanying drawing are sufficient to enable any person skilled in the art or science to which it most nearly appertains to make and use my said invention or improvement without further invention or experiment.

My invention relates to a fastening for pocket-openings, whereby the sewed seams are prevented from ripping or starting from the great pressure or strain thereon; and it consists in the employment of a metal rivet or eyelet at each edge of the pocket-opening, to prevent the ripping of the seam at those points. The rivet or eyelet is so fastened in the seam as to bind the two parts of cloth which the seam unites together, so that it shall prevent the strain or pressure from coming upon the thread with which the seam is sewed.

In order to more fully illustrate and explain my invention, reference is had to the accompanying drawing, in which my invention is represented as applied to the pockets of a pair of pants.

Figure 1 is a view of my invention as applied to pants. A is the side seam in a pair of pants, drawers, or other article of wearing apparel, which terminates at the pockets; and B & C represent the rivets at each edge of the pocket opening. The seams are usually ripped or started by the placing of the hands in the pockets and

the consequent pressure or strain upon them. To strengthen this part I employ a rivet, eyelet, or other equivalent metal stud, B, which I pass through a hole at the end of the seam, so as to bind the two parts of cloth together, and then bend it down upon both sides so as to firmly unite the two parts. When rivets which already have one head are used, it is only necessary to bend the opposite end, and a washer can be interposed, if desired, in the usual way. By this means I avoid a large amount of trouble in mending portions of seams which are subjected to constant strain.

I am aware that rivets have been used for securing seams in shoes, as shown in the patents to Geo. Houghton, No. 61,015, April 23, 1861, and to L. R. Washburn, No. 123,313, January 29, 1872; and hence I do not claim, broadly, fastening of seams by means of rivets.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

As a new article of manufacture, a pair of pantaloons having the pocket-openings secured at each edge by means of rivets, substantially in the manner described and shown, whereby the seams at the points named are prevented from ripping, as set forth.

In witness whereof I have set my hand and seal.

JACOB W. DAVIS. [s. s.]

Witnesses:
JAMES C. HADENKAMP,
W. BRECKMAN.

J. W. DAVIS.
Fastening Pocket-Openings.
No. 139,121. Patented May 10, 1873.



WITNESSES
J. L. Borne
J. H. Richardson

INVENTOR
Jacob W. Davis
per J. Borne & J. H. Richardson
Attorneys

Original patent granted to Jacob Davis on May 10, 1873 in behalf of himself and Levi Strauss & Company of San Francisco, California.

Final plaster models for the Levi Strauss medal. Permission was obtained from Levi Strauss and Company to reproduce their logo on the medal's reverse.



JONAS SALK

1914 - 1995



MEDALIST: Hal Reed

OBVERSE: Portrait, Jonas Salk (signature).

REVERSE: Polio victim on crutches watches two boys playing with balls; Salk Institute in background; 1979 Hal Reed.

Jonas Edward Salk was born in New York City on October 28, 1914. After graduating from the City College of New York, he went on to be a research fellow at the University of Michigan. There he helped in the development of an influenza vaccine and served as a member of the U.S. Army Influenza Commission. Moving to the University of Pittsburgh's School of Medicine, Salk became Research Professor of Bacteriology in 1949, Professor of Preventive Medicine 5 years later, and finally Professor of Experimental Medicine (1957-1963).

At the University of Pittsburgh, Salk did research into poliomyelitis, developing immunological methods to distinguish different types of the virus. He then developed a vaccine prepared by inactivating the virus. Massive field trials conducted by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis in 1954, confirmed the effectiveness of the vaccine, which became the first weapon against the polio scourge. In the years immediately before mass inoculations with the Salk vaccine began, there was an average of 25,000 cases a year in the United States. In 1969

not a single death from polio was reported in the nation, and the disease has virtually been eradicated worldwide. For his pioneering accomplishment, Dr. Salk received many honors and awards, including the Presidential Citation and the Congressional Medal for Distinguished Achievement.

Salk served as an expert on virus diseases for



The Salk Institute

the World Health Organization in 1961, and two years later founded the Salk Institute for Biological Studies at La Jolla, California, which he directed until his death. The Salk Institute is one of the world's major independent centers of biological research, with an annual budget of over 12 million dollars and a staff of

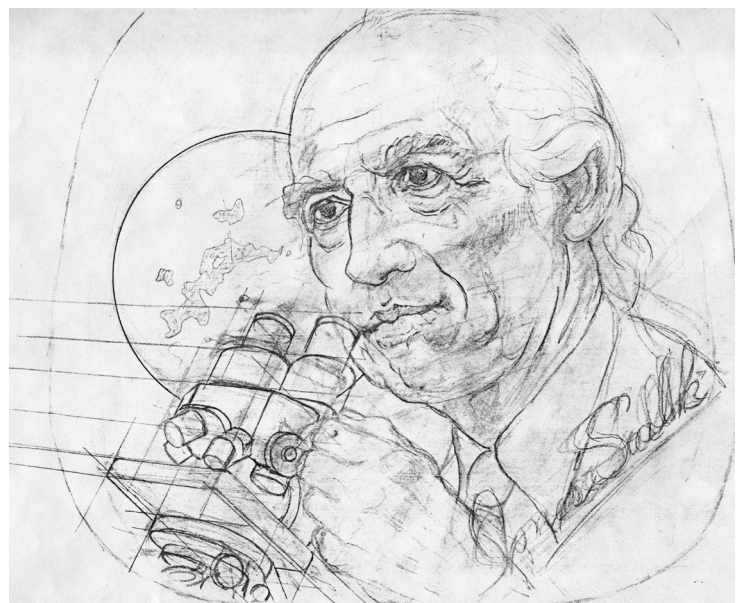
over 400. It is an architectural masterpiece by Louis Kahn. One of the great strengths of this "Athens of the Pacific" is the enhanced insight that arises from the interdisciplinary approach to problems and from the exchange of ideas of scientists from all over the world.

THE BACK STORY



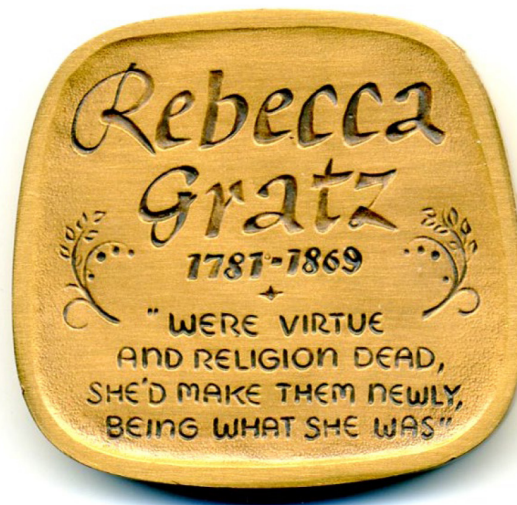
Preliminary sketch of Jonas Salk by Hal Reed.

Refined sketch for the Salk medal.



REBECCA GRATZ

1781 - 1869



MEDALIST: Gerta Ries Wiener

OBVERSE: Portrait, R Gratz (signature), Gerta Wiener.

REVERSE: Rebecca Gratz 1781-1869, "WERE VIRTUE AND RELIGION DEAD, SHE'D MAKE THEM NEWLY, BEING WHAT SHE WAS."

Bernard Gratz (1738-1801) emigrated to America from Poland, via England, in 1754. Along with other merchants, he signed Non-Importation Agreements to boycott British goods during the Stamp Act and Townshend Act crises prior to the Revolution. The Gratz family wholeheartedly supported the American patriots, and supplied goods to the Continental Army. Bernard and his younger brother, Michael, helped found one of the first synagogues in America, which in 1773 evolved into Philadelphia's Congregation Mikveh Israel.

After the War, the Gratzes became involved in a successful struggle for equal rights in Pennsylvania. Michael's son Hyman founded Gratz College, but it was his daughter who is the "jewel of the Gratz dynasty."

Rebecca Gratz achieved literary immortality when, after hearing of her charm, beauty and goodness, Sir Walter Scott introduced a Jewish female character into the work that was then in progress. He even named the heroine (of *Ivanhoe*)

"Rebecca."

While she never married, Rebecca Gratz made a home for her unmarried brothers, and reared the nine orphaned children of her sister Rachel Moses. In her twenty-first year, she became secretary for the Female Association for the Relief of Women and Children in Reduced Circumstances, and in 1815 Rebecca was a founder of the Philadelphia Orphan Society. But, perhaps her most significant accomplishment was the founding of the Hebrew Sunday School Society, the first of its kind in America, and the model for all Jewish education in America.

After her death in 1869, at the age of 88, Rebecca Gratz was mourned as one of the foremost women in America. Rabbi David Philipson wrote in the introduction to the *Letters of Rebecca Gratz*: "She is not unworthy of having applied to her the exquisite words used of a rare woman by George Elliot, that 'were all virtue and religion dead, she'd make them newly, being what she was.'" And those are the words inscribed on the reverse of the Rebecca Gratz medal.

THE BACK STORY



Gerta Ries Wiener's preliminary sketch for the Gratz medal featured a different quote on the reverse.



Rebecca in Ivanhoe as pictured in the first edition by Albert Henry Payne, 1851, and as portrayed by Elizabeth Taylor in the 1952 movie.

ISAAC STERN

1920 - 2001



MEDALIST: Gerta Ries Wiener

OBVERSE: Portrait of Stern playing his 1740 Guarneri, Gerta Wiener.

REVERSE: Marquee of Carnegie Hall.

Virtuoso violinist Isaac Stern was born in Kreminiesz, Russia on July 21, 1920. When just a year old, his family emigrated to the United States and settled in San Francisco. Stern took up the violin at the age of eight, and within three years was a soloist with the San Francisco Symphony.

Stern's memorable Carnegie Hall debut was made in 1943. In 1960, thanks largely to his efforts, historic Carnegie Hall (opened May 5, 1891) was saved from demolition — and he continued to serve as its president for over three decades.

Isaac Stern has appeared in concerts throughout the world, playing his 1740 Guarneri, gaining recognition as an unofficial "United States Musical Ambassador." Antonio Stradivari made about 1,100 violins during his lifetime, in the 17th and

early 18th centuries, of which about 550 survive. But the instrument preferred by Stern is one of just 150 violins made by Giuseppe Guarneri del Gesu during the same period. Strads are often described as sounding sweet and golden, while Guarneriuses are more dusky or earthy and sensuous.

A movie about Stern's trip to China, *From Mao to Mozart*, won an Academy Award. Stern found time to play a role in the Broadway show *Tonight We Sing* in 1952; he also inaugurated the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv (1957) and founded the Jerusalem Music Centre in 1973. In addition, Stern has served as the president of the American-Israel Cultural Foundation, and was appointed in 1965 as a member of the National Council on Arts.

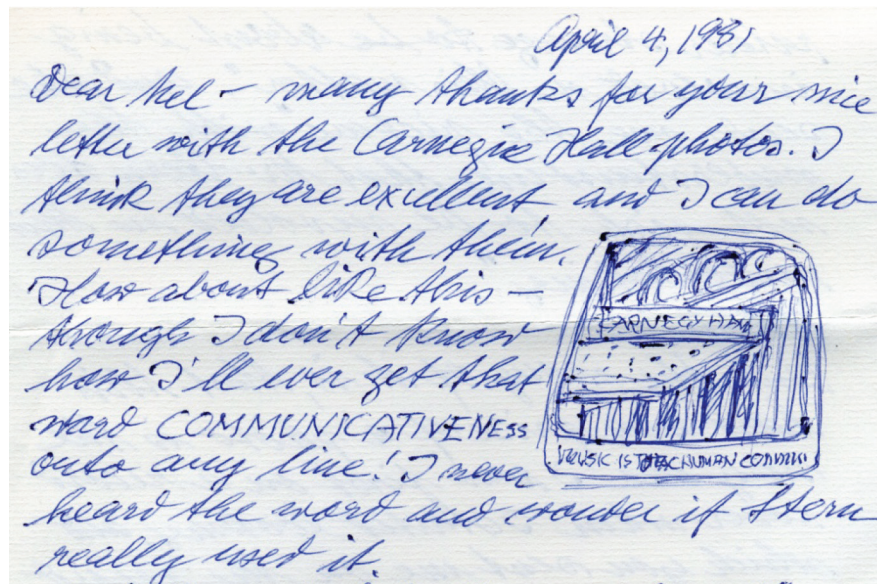
47 x 45 mm / Metal Arts

320 Bronze / 50 Pewter / 110 Pure Silver / 26 10kt Gold

Later struck by Roger Williams Mint in 2001 for the Israel

Government Coins & Medals Corp.: 200 bronze (edge numbered 321-520), 200 pure silver (edge numbered 111-310).

THE BACK STORY



Early sketch of the Carnegie Hall reverse design for the Isaac Stern medal in a letter from Ms. Wiener to Mel Wacks. It was later decided not to have an inscription in exergue.



Early plaster model featured Stern in a cardigan. It was later determined that he should be wearing more formal attire.

EMMA LAZARUS

1849 - 1887



MEDALIST: Gerta Ries Wiener

OBVERSE: Portrait, 1849-1887, surrounded by name and quote in Lazarus' own handwriting, Emma Lazarus: "Give me your tired, your poor ... yearning to breathe free."

REVERSE: New immigrants passing by the Statue of Liberty, Gerta Wiener.

In 1883, a Pedestal Art Loan Exhibition was held to raise funds for the Statue of Liberty's pedestal. Walt Whitman, Mark Twain, and others contributed original manuscripts, but the highest bid of \$1,500 was received for a sonnet "The New Colossus" written just a few days earlier. The immortal words were written by young Emma Lazarus, soon after her return from a European trip, where she had seen the persecution of Jews and others first hand:

*Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land,
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.*

*"Keep ancient lands, your storied pomp!" Cries she,
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,*

*Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore,
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me.
I lift my lamp beside the golden door."*

It was not until 1888 that the Statue of Liberty assumed her majestic place in New York's harbor. Sadly, Emma Lazarus didn't witness this historical event since she died of cancer a year earlier, when she was only 38 years old.

Actually, Emma's poem might have been forgotten, but for the efforts of Georgiana Schuyler, who had the words inscribed on a tablet and affixed inside the Statue of Liberty in 1903. In 1945, the tablet was moved from the second story landing to the Statue's entrance, where it can be seen today.

In addition to her own writings, Lazarus — who hadn't studied Hebrew until her 34th year — made scholarly translations of Ben Ezra, Gabirol and Halevi. She even found time to help establish the Hebrew Technical Institute of New York.

THE BACK STORY

"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
with silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Excerpt from the manuscript of the sonnet "The New Colossus" by Emma Lazarus, dated 1883, in the collection of the American Jewish Historical Society.



Gerta Ries Wiener's preliminary sketches for the Emma Lazarus medal. Note that Lazarus' handwritten excerpt from The New Colossus and the New York skyline were added later.

ISAAC BASHEVIS SINGER

1904 - 1991



MEDALISTS: Obverse by Robert Russin, reverse by Mel Wacks

OBVERSE: Portrait, Isaac B Singer (signature), RUSSIN.

REVERSE: FREE WILL ... IS LIFE'S ESSENCE (English and Yiddish).

Twenty-nine year old Isaac Bashevis Singer, sensing the rapidly approaching catastrophe in Europe, fled Poland and came to America in 1935. His sole claim to fame at the time was a single Yiddish book published in Poland: *Satan in Goray*. He could speak only three words of English: "Take a chair." Singer feared that his lot "was to be one of those writers who write one book and become silent forever."

For the next ten years Singer barely eked out a living as a critic for the leading Yiddish newspaper, *The Forward*. In this period, his total income from serious literary efforts amounted to a minuscule \$90 honorarium received when *Satan in Goray* was published in the United States in Yiddish in 1943, the same year that Singer became an American citizen.

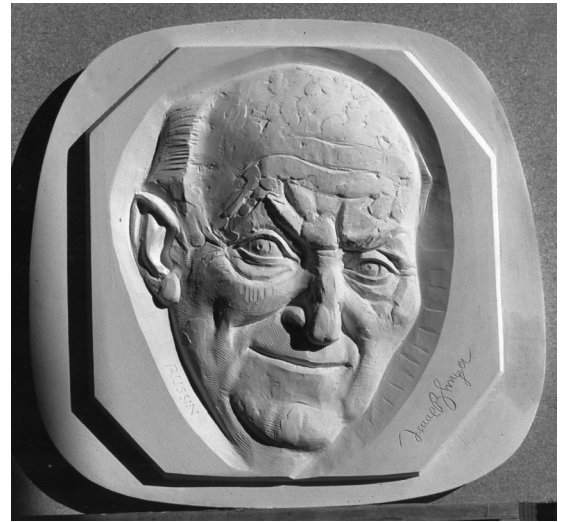
Finally in 1945, Singer began writing *The Family Moskat*, which was serialized each week in *The Forward*. He continued writing for them, saying "I haven't missed a week, except that I get four week's vacation." Translated into English. Singer's delightful stories have appeared in *Commentary*,

The New Yorker, and even *Playboy* magazine. His editor at Doubleday wrote that "Isaac Bashevis Singer is a literary figure of imposing stature. [His] prolific output of short stories, children's books, plays, scholarly works and novels are received and embraced by an enormous and devoted audience." In an interview, Rebecca West indicated "I regard Isaac Bashevis Singer as the greatest writer of today."

Love is a frequent theme in Singer's writings, along with religion and the occult. His books have twice won the National Book Award, and often found their way into best seller lists. They include *The Spinoza of Market Street*, *The Magician of Lublin*, *The Slave*, *In My Father's Court*, *Passions*, and *Lost in America*. One of Singer's short stories, *Yentl*, was transformed into a major motion picture by Barbra Streisand.

Success did not change him. After receiving the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1978, Isaac Bashevis Singer said: "I will still live at the same address. I will still have the same telephone number. Do you think that winning a prize can change a man's character?"

THE BACK STORY



Robert Russin sculpted Isaac Bashevis Singer's portrait from life. However, it was thought that the raised hexagonal border would be difficult to strike and that the signature was too small. Sculptor Alex Shagin made the modifications with the approval of Russin.



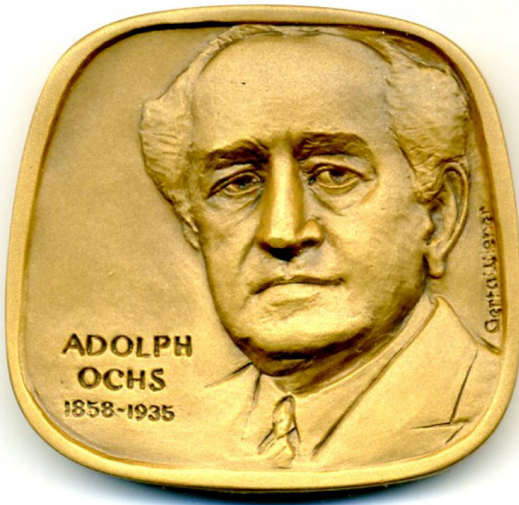
Russin's original reverse design was considered a bit too racy by Mel Wacks, and so calligrapher Susan Fisher was called on to create the reverse design, based on a quote from one of Singer's books.



When Singer was consulted, he indicated that he thought this quote was "banal," and he supplied the quote that was finally used on the medal.

ADOLPH OCHS

1858 - 1935



MEDALIST: Gerta Ries Wiener

OBVERSE: Portrait, Gerta Wiener.

REVERSE: Turn-of-the-century newsstand, The New York Times, "All the News That's Fit to Print."

While Adolph Ochs' formal education was sketchy, he described his work at the Knoxville (Tennessee) Chronicle as his "high school and university." Beginning as office boy in 1869, at the age of 11, he was soon promoted to delivery boy at a weekly salary of \$1.50. From that time until his death, Ochs never left the newspaper business. He was a founder of the Southern Associated Press, and was its chairman from 1891 to 1894. For 35 years, Ochs served as a director of the Associated Press.

At the age of 38, Ochs took on the monumental task of reviving the financially ailing New York Times. He insisted on a clean, upright and impartial approach to the news. After only three years of his dynamic leadership, The Times was showing a profit. Ochs purchased a controlling interest in 1900. Starting with a circulation of 9,000, The New York Times — at the time of Ochs's death — sold almost a half million copies daily and nearly three-quarters of a million copies each Sunday. He had made it one of the greatest newspapers in the world.

Adolph Ochs headed the five million dollar campaign for the creation of Hebrew Union College's endowment fund. He served as a trustee of Temple Emanu-El in New York, and as a symbol of interfaith goodwill. In 1930, Ochs presented two 12-foot candelabra (menorahs) to the Cathedral of St. John the Divine.

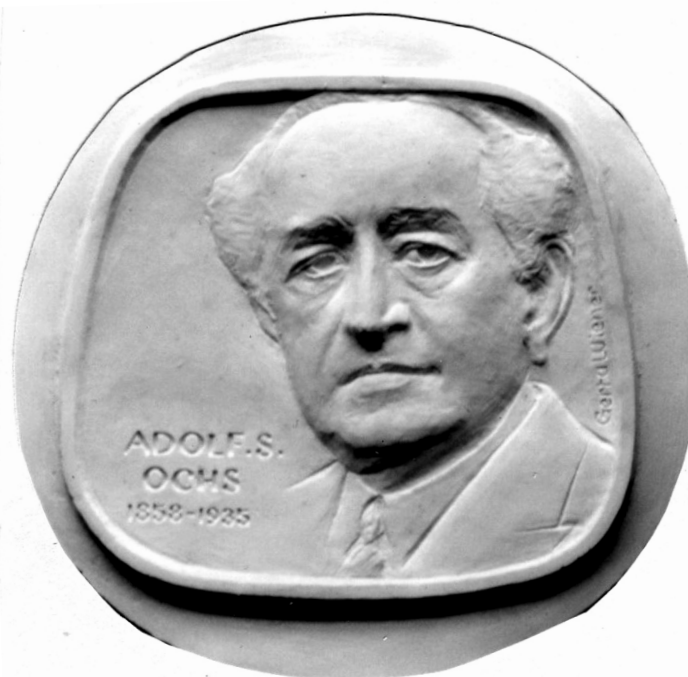
Undoubtedly, Ochs's greatest humanitarian effort was the creation of The New York Times Neediest Cases Fund in 1912, to provide money for "exceptionally deserving persons among the city's poor." That first year \$3,630.88 was raised. Recent years have seen contributions mounting to several million dollars annually, donated by tens of thousands of Times' readers. Every cent contributed goes to the needy, with no deductions for administrative costs. Thus, this son of immigrants — a lad who began his auspicious career by earning \$1.50 a week at the age of 11 — has left a legacy that can make all Americans proud.

THE BACK STORY



Preliminary sketches by Gerta Ries Wiener for the Adolph Ochs medal featured his signature and the New York Times building in Times Square. Wiener wrote to Wacks saying: "To my great regret I decided not to use his doodle-signature. Most people

wouldn't have been able to decipher it and wouldn't have known whom the gentleman represented." Wacks suggested "to eliminate the building and [instead have] a small boy selling newspapers in its place." The medalist did the former but not the latter.



Seymour Fromer, Director of the Magnes Museum, discovered that Adolph Ochs' name had been misspelled on the plaster as "ADOLF S. OCHS." This was corrected at the mint before any medals had been struck.

THE JEWS WHO HELPED COLUMBUS

**DON ISAAC
ABRAVANEL**

1437 - 1508

**LUIS DE
SANTANGEL**

? - 1498

**ABRAHAM
ZACUTO**

1452 - c.1515



Medal commemorates the 500th anniversary of Columbus' first meeting with Queen Isabella.

MEDALIST: Paul Vincze

OBVERSE: Cameos of ABRAHAM ZACUTO, LUIS DE SANTANGEL and DON ISAAC ABRAVANEL, Santa Maria in center, 1492, P. VINCZE.

REVERSE: Columbus kneeling before Queen Isabella et al, 1486 in exergue, P. VINCZE

There has been much speculation over the centuries as to whether Christopher Columbus may have been Jewish or of Jewish descent. The Encyclopædia Britannica indicates that he may have come from a Spanish-Jewish family settled in Genoa, Italy. But there is no question that it was his Spanish-Jewish friends who were instrumental in arranging for his meeting with the Spanish Monarchs in 1486, and who turned his dream into reality.

Contrary to popular opinion, it was not Queen Isabella's jewelry, but Spanish Jewry that made Columbus' historical trip of discovery possible. Actually it was Luis de Santangel, whose grandfather had converted from Judaism to Christianity under pressure of Spanish persecutions, who lent nearly 5 million maravedis to pay for the voyage. In addition, Santangel's influence with King Ferdinand

and Queen Isabella was decisive in gaining their acceptance of Columbus' proposals. In recognition of his assistance, Santangel was the first to hear of the historic discoveries directly, in a personal letter from Columbus. Showing his allegiance to his former co-religionists, Luis de Santangel made substantial contributions toward the hiring of ships that enabled them to leave when they were expelled en mass from Spain.

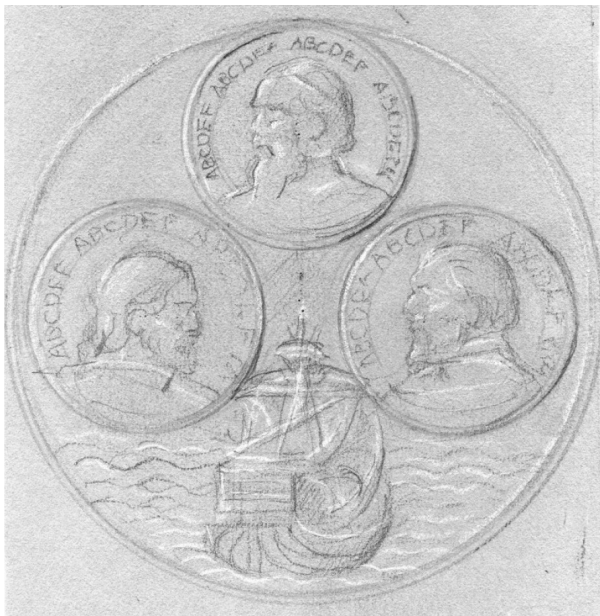
Another of Columbus' stalwart friends was Don Isaac Abravanel, who had remained loyal to his religion, and who was one of the most distinguished biblical scholars, philosophers and statesmen of the period. He also helped to finance Columbus' voyage, although he was not there to greet the great explorer upon his return, since Abravanel had been expelled

from Spain in 1492 along with all of the other Jews, in spite of his high position in the court of Ferdinand and Isabella.

Astronomer and rabbi Abraham Zacuto was also forced to leave his native Spain. He was later named Royal Mathematician to the Portuguese

royal court. There, he improved the astrolabe (early navigational instrument) and prepared astronomical tables, greatly improving navigational accuracy on the high seas. A copy of Zacuto's astronomical tables, along with Columbus' personal annotations, is still preserved in Seville.

THE BACK STORY



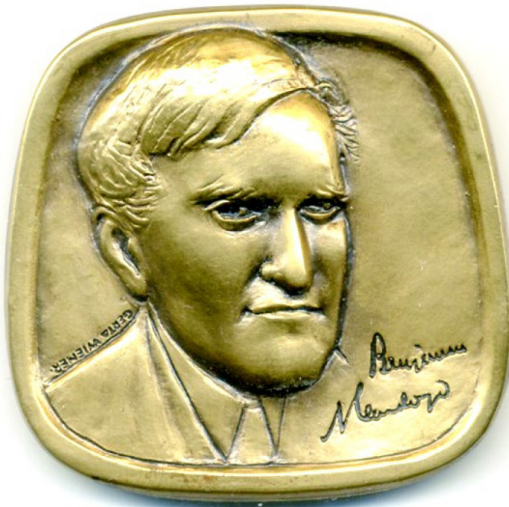
Preliminary sketch by Paul Vincze shows rough layout without inscriptions.



Vincze's clay modeling in near-finished stage.

BENJAMIN CARDOZO

1870 - 1938



MEDALIST: Gerta Ries Wiener

OBVERSE: Portrait, Benjamin Cardozo (signature), Gerta Wiener.

REVERSE: U.S. Supreme Court building, THE FINAL CAUSE OF LAW IS THE WELFARE OF SOCIETY, JUSTICE BENJAMIN NATHAN CARDOZO 1870-1938.

Born in 1870 as a twin, Benjamin Cardozo grew up in his family's Madison Avenue home in New York City. His early education was carried out at home ... and his tutor was Horatio Alger, who was already a world-famous author of "rags to riches" books. Cardozo enrolled in Columbia University before his 16th birthday, becoming its youngest student. He graduated with the highest scholastic record in its history.

In 1913, following the urging of civic reform leaders, Cardozo won a seat on the New York Supreme Court. After serving for only a few months, the governor named him to the more prestigious Court of Appeals, where he served with great distinction until President Hoover appointed him to the United States Supreme Court in 1932 — where he served until his death in 1938.

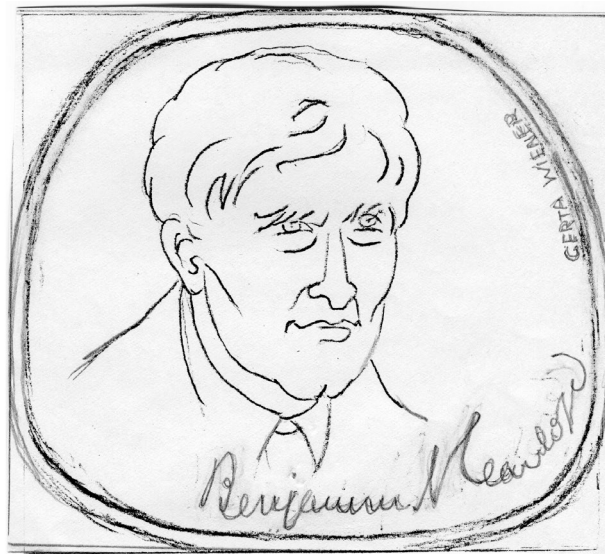
Cardozo's opinions are easily recognized by their "clarity, conciseness suffused with moral luminosity, and a command of historical material that is unrivaled in the entire common-law tradition," according to Judge Sidney Asch.

Benjamin Cardozo is particularly noted for his original thinking as expounded in his books, where he emphasized that a judge had to look beyond the legal authorities to meet responsibility to those seeking justice. He was a bulwark in defense of New Deal legislation, ruling in favor of the constitutionality of important programs such as social security and old-age pensions.

Between February 1, 1790 when the United States Supreme Court first met in New York City, and October 7, 1935 when the justices convened in their present building in Washington, D.C., the court held sessions in a dozen different places including Philadelphia's Independence Hall, the basement of the Capitol, and even at Long's Tavern in Washington. The Supreme Court Building was built thanks to the efforts of President—and later Chief Justice—William Howard Taft. In 1929, Congress appropriated 9.74 million dollars for the Supreme Court Building. The classic Greek-Corinthian structure was completed under budget, and \$94,000 was returned to the US Treasury.

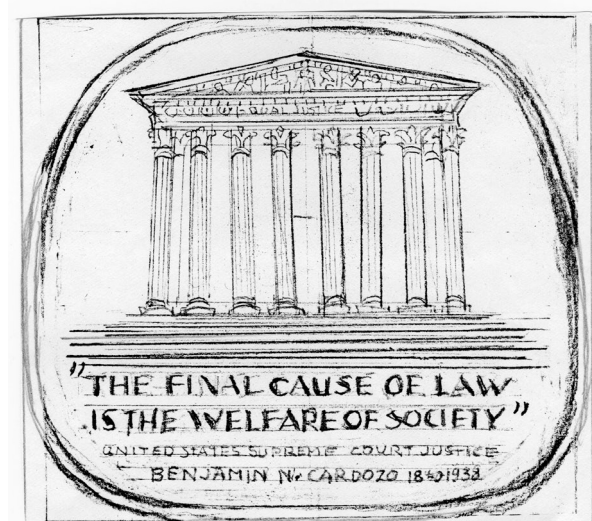
45 x 44 mm / Medallion Art Company
400 Bronze / 118 Pure Silver / 30 10kt Gold

THE BACK STORY



Gerta Ries Wiener's preliminary sketch of Benjamin Cardozo's portrait.

Early concept and final sketch for reverse of the Cardozo medal.



URIAH P. LEVY

1792 - 1862



MEDALIST: Hal Reed

OBVERSE: Portrait, sailing ship, flogging scene and anti-flogging petition, COMMODORE URIAH P. LEVY • 1792 • 1862, HR monogram.

REVERSE: Monticello, Th Jefferson (signature).

Forty years before French army officer Alfred Dreyfus was court-martialed, convicted and eventually exonerated in trials based on anti-Semitism, an American naval officer was facing similar tribulations. The American court's verdict was unanimous for the 63 year old defendant: "Uriah P. Levy is morally, mentally, physically and professionally fit for the Naval Service and ought to be restored to the active list of the Navy." Within five years of this court-martial, Levy was placed in command of the entire Mediterranean Fleet and was elevated to the Navy's highest rank — Commodore.

Uriah Phillips Levy was born in 1792 in Philadelphia. He was barely 14 years old when he embarked on his naval career by signing on as a cabin boy. Seven years later he volunteered for service in the United States Navy during the War of 1812, as "proof of love to my country." The next year, Uriah was captured and imprisoned by the British until the end of the war. In the years following, he faced persecution from many naval officers, he had to defend himself in a duel, and was subjected to six courts-martial, all instigated by anti-Semitism.

Throughout his life, Uriah P. Levy, was active in religious life; he was the first president of the Washington Hebrew Congregation, and in 1854 he sponsored the new Seminary of the Bnai Jeshurun Educational Institute in New York.

It was Levy's wish that he be remembered for his singular efforts to abolish the barbarous punishment of flogging in the U.S. Navy, which resulted in Congressional approval of an anti-flogging bill in 1850.

Uriah P. Levy regarded Thomas Jefferson as "one of the greatest men in history, who did much to mold the Republic in a form in which man's religion does not make him ineligible for political or governmental life." Thus, about 10 years after the former President's death in 1826, Levy purchased Jefferson's rundown estate, that was virtually in ruin. He began a long and costly program of renovation and restoration, including the purchase of an additional 2,500 acres adjoining the historic property. After Levy's death in 1862, his will directed that Monticello — the house and property — be left "to the people of the United States."

47 x 45 mm / Medallion Art Company
350 Bronze / 118 Pure Silver / 25 10kt Gold

THE BACK STORY



A drawing on tracing paper, which medalist Hal Reed used to transfer the reverse design to wax so it could be modeled into the final relief. Note that it was originally planned to place the inscription "MONTICELLO" above the building, but after the model was completed, it was decided to incuse Thomas Jefferson's signature above the dome.

Plaster model of the reverse of Uriah P. Levy medal,
with "MONTICELLO" above the dome.



IRVING BERLIN

1888 - 1989



MEDALIST: Marika Somogyi

DESIGN: Portrait, Irving Berlin (signature), Marika, IN HONOR OF IRVING BERLIN'S 100th BIRTHDAY, MAY 11, 1988.

The son of a cantor, Irving Berlin was born Israel Baline on May 11, 1888 near the Siberian border, in the Russian village of Tyumen. An anti-Semitic pogrom in 1893 persuaded his father to bring the entire family, including eight children, to New York.

In 1924, songwriter Jerome Kern observed "Irving Berlin has no place in American music — he is American music." Berlin's songs include America's unofficial national anthem God Bless America, as well as perennial standards Easter Parade and White Christmas, plus about 1,500 more, for which he wrote both music and lyrics.

Irving Berlin was honored in 1944 by the National Conference of Christians and Jews for "advancing the aims of the conference to eliminate

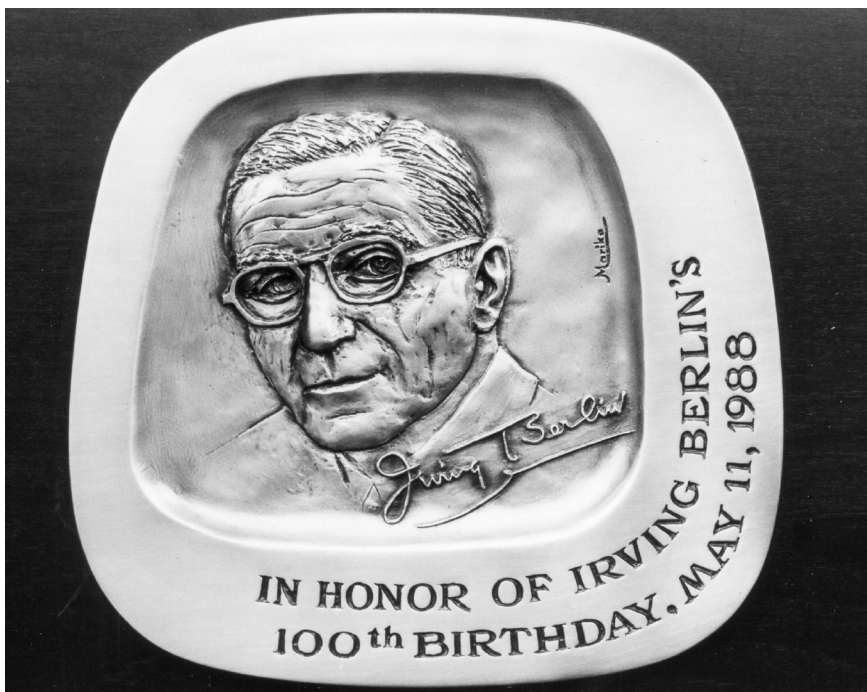
religious and racial conflict." Five years later, he was honored by the New York YMHA as one of "12 outstanding Americans of the Jewish faith." And in recognition of the song God Bless America, Mr. Berlin was presented with a special Congressional gold medal in 1954 by President Dwight Eisenhower. Earlier, the composer had assigned the copyright to the God Bless America Fund, which has raised millions of dollars for the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

Following a gala 100th birthday celebration concert at Carnegie Hall, Morton Gould, president of ASCAP, said that "Irving Berlin's music will last not for just an hour, not for just a day, not for just a year, but always." Not bad for a poor immigrant who had only two years of formal schooling and who never learned to read or write music!

THE BACK STORY



Marika Somogyi's original sketch for the Irving Berlin plaque dummied in his signature.



Plaster model for Irving Berlin plaque. Note that signature has been modified from original sketch, based on autograph supplied by Mr. Berlin.

BENNY GOODMAN

1909 - 1966



MEDALIST: Marika Somogyi

OBVERSE: Portrait, Benny Goodman (signature).

REVERSE: Benny Goodman with band and dancers, THE KING OF SWING 1909-1986, Marika.

Benjamin David Goodman grew up in a tough Chicago ghetto. His father took Benny and two brothers to a local synagogue, where they received musical instruments and lessons. Benny later studied with Franz Shoepp, a clarinetist in the Chicago Symphony, which undoubtedly accounts for his love of classical music.

Benny Goodman made history at the Palomar Ballroom in Los Angeles on August 21, 1935, when the crowd of jumping, cheering youngsters surrounded the bandstand during a swinging arrangement of *Sugar Foot Stomp* — and the Swing Era was born! History was made again in March, 1937 when more than 21,000 people jammed their way into the New York Paramount Theater to bounce in their seats and dance in the aisles to the Benny Goodman Band. And his 1938 Carnegie Hall Jazz Concert has earned an honored place in America's musical folklore.

Less known is that the Benny Goodman Quartet, featuring Gene Krupa on drums, Teddy Wilson on piano, and vibraphonist Lionel Hampton, made the first dent in the color barrier that had until then kept bands all white or all black. Hampton has said that "the Benny Goodman Quartet was the forerunner of getting Jackie Robinson into baseball."

Goodman was equally at home playing Mozart with the Boston Symphony or jamming at Harlem's Savoy Ballroom. Bartok dedicated his clarinet trio *Contrasts* to Benny Goodman in 1938; later Goodman commissioned Aaron Copeland's *Concerto for Clarinet and String Orchestra* in 1947, and Morton Gould's *Derivations for Clarinet and Band* in 1955. Benny Goodman was also a composer, having co-written standards such as *Stompin' at the Savoy* and *Swingtime in the Rockies*.

Benny Goodman was elected to the faculties of the Juilliard School of Music and Boston University. In 1962, when "The King of Swing" made a successful tour of the Soviet Union, one newspaper reporter quipped that "Khrushchev would trade three Sputniks for a Russian Benny Goodman!"

The Big Broadcast of 1937 was the first of a long list of movies in which Goodman appeared, and, of course, he supplied all of the clarinet solos for the 1956 hit *The Benny Goodman Story*, starring Steve Allen. Anyone who was lucky enough to see Benny Goodman in person, listen to him on the radio, or dance to his records, knows why he was called "America's Number One Musician" by musicologist Hal Davis.

47 x 45 mm / Medallie Art Company
300 Bronze / 110 Pure Silver / 20 10kt Gold

THE BACK STORY



Marika's original sketches for the Benny Goodman medal; the reverse was modified to include dancing couples.



Marika Somogyi beside plaque made from her original plaster model for the Benny Goodman medal. This plaque now hangs in the Virginia Holocaust Museum along with all of the other Jewish-American Hall of Fame plaques.

DR. BÉLA SCHICK

1877 - 1967



MEDALIST: Gerta Ries Wiener

OBVERSE: Portrait with young girl, BÉLA SCHICK M.D. 1877-1967.

REVERSE: Running young girl, The World is kept alive by the breath of Children. Talmud, GERTA WIENER.

Youthful Béla Schick quoted the Talmud: "The world is kept alive by the breath of children," to help persuade his father to allow him to pursue continued education in pediatrics, rather than to join the family grain-merchant business in Graz, Austria. Schick became assistant at the Children's Clinic in Vienna, and later associate professor of pediatrics at Vienna University.

He emigrated to the United States, and in 1923 became pediatrician-in-chief at New York's Mount Sinai Hospital. He later (1936) was appointed clinical professor of pediatrics at Columbia University. Schick made important studies on scarlet fever, tuberculosis, and the nutrition for infants ... but gained international renown for the Schick Test. This test determined susceptibility to diphtheria, and eventually led to the eradication of the childhood disease that attacked 100,000 Americans in 1927, leading to about 10,000 deaths.

A massive five-year campaign, coordinated by

Dr. Schick, virtually eliminated the dreaded disease that had taken countless young lives since it was first mentioned in the sixth century writings of Aetius. As a part of the campaign, 85 million pieces of literature were distributed by Metropolitan Life Co. with an appeal to parents to "Save your child from diphtheria." These illustrated brochures were created by a talented young artist who had recently emigrated from Germany — Gerta Ries. Remarkably, this same artist — Gerta Ries (Wiener) — was commissioned over 75 years later to create the medal of Béla Schick for the Jewish-American Hall of Fame.



THE BACK STORY



Gerta Ries Wiener's final drawing for the obverse of the Béla Schick medal.

The drawing for the reverse was based on a girl in the building where Ms. Wiener lived.



HANK GREENBERG

1911 - 1986



MEDALIST: Hal Reed

OBVERSE: Portrait, Hank Greenberg (signature).

REVERSE: Greenberg at bat, We shall miss him on the infield. We shall miss him at the bat. But he's true to his religion and honor him for that. HENRY 'HANK' GREENBERG, 1911-1986, HR monogram.

Henry Benjamin Greenberg was born in New York City on January 1, 1911. In 1925, 14 year- old Greenberg was a player on the Washington Avenue Annex Settlement House baseball team, which won the Bronx championship. Years later, Greenberg won a scholarship to New York University, but he quit after his first term to play baseball full time.

Hank joined the Detroit Tigers in 1933 as a first baseman, and helped them win their first American League pennant in 25 years. The Tigers were champions again the following year, and Hank won the American League's Most Valuable Player award by a unanimous vote of the Baseball Writers Association; he won it again in 1940 after he had been switched to left field.

After Hank Greenberg declined to play in an important game on Yom Kippur in 1934, Edgar Guest published a poem, the last lines of which are: "We shall miss him on the infield and shall miss him at the bat, but he's true to his religion — and I honor him for that."

As the first Jewish baseball star, Hank Greenberg had to handle racial slurs from fans and

opponents alike. Birdie Tebbetts, a Detroit teammate of Greenberg's for seven seasons, recalled that, "There was nobody in the history of the game who took more abuse than Greenberg, unless it was Jackie Robinson."

Hank barely missed Babe Ruth's fabled record of 60 home runs, when he hit 58 in 1938. However, Greenberg did set a major league mark that year when he slammed two homers per game eleven times.

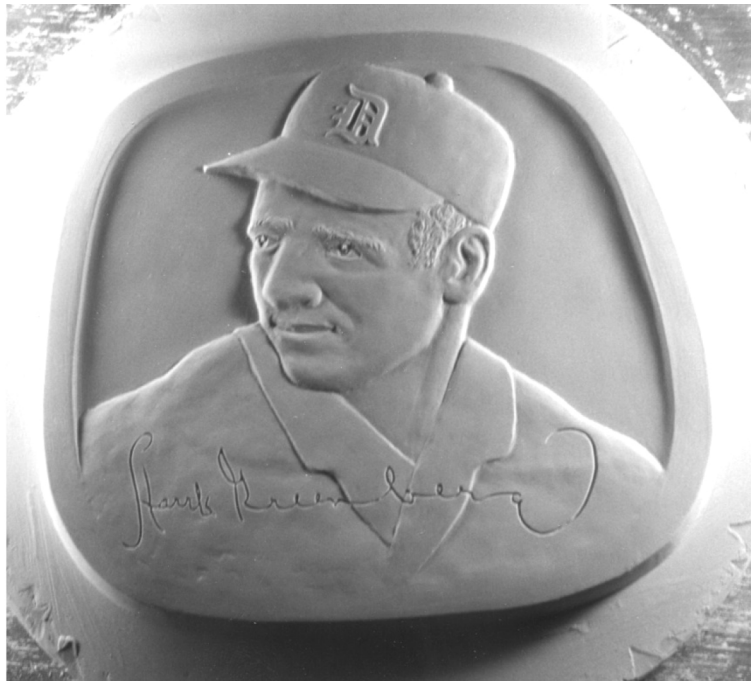
At the peak of his career, in 1941, Hank Greenberg was inducted into the US Army, saying "I never asked for a deferment. I made up my mind to go when I was called." Rejoining the Tigers after his discharge on June 14, 1945, in the heat of a pennant race, Hank hit a home run in his first game back, and blasted his famous grand slam home run in the last inning of the final game of the season. The man that Joe DiMaggio called "one of the truly great hitters," was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1956.

47 x 45 mm / Medallion Art Company

690 Bronze / 100 Pure Silver / 12 10kt Gold

In 2011, fewer than 200 silver-plated bronze medals were issued with edge inscription: "HANK GREENBERG CENTENNIAL."

THE BACK STORY



Greenberg's portrait was initially sculpted facing left, and was later changed to facing right.

Penultimate stage of the reverse sculpt. Hank Greenberg's dates "1911-1986" were later inscribed into the bottom border.



COLUMBUS

THE EXPULSION OF JEWS FROM SPAIN, AND LANDFALL IN THE NEW WORLD WITH LUIS DE TORRES

1492



MEDALIST: Paul Vincze

OBVERSE: Portrait, Christopher Columbus Quincentennial 1992, AFTER YOU EXPELLED THE JEWS YOUR MAJESTIES SENT ME WITH A FLEET Ch Columbus (signature), P. VINCZE.

REVERSE: Columbus, accompanied by Luis de Torres, meets native Americans in the New World, astrolabe below, 1492 1992, P. VINCZE.

The history of Spanish (Sephardic) Jewry goes back at least 2,000 years to the time of the Roman Empire. The first anti-Jewish laws were passed in 589 CE, when it was ruled that children of a mixed Jewish-Christian marriage should be baptized — and this soon led to a policy of forced conversion of all Jews in the kingdom. In 1694, the 17th Council of Toledo made all Spanish Jews slaves. In the period of Arabic rule (after 711 CE), the Jews of Spain fared better — scholarship and culture flourished.

Beginning in 1478, in the reign of Ferdinand and Isabella, no less than 13,000 secret Jews (Conversos) were executed by the Inquisition. At the same time, the monarchs continued to employ Jewish functionaries — such as Don Isaac Abravanel — in their court. On March 31, 1492 the Edict of Expulsion was signed, resulting in 300,000 Sephardic

Jews leaving for refuge in North Africa, Turkey, etc.

The last Jews left on August 2, 1492, the day before Columbus sailed; that was also the traditional day of mourning (9th of Av) for the destruction of the First and Second Temples. This explains the first words Columbus wrote in his log: "After you expelled the Jews your majesties sent me with a fleet."

The only known Jew on Columbus' voyage was Luis de Torres. Born Yosef ben HaLevi Halvri, he had to be baptized shortly before sailing. Torres knew Hebrew, Aramaic and some Arabic.

Torres was the first European settler in the New World. He set up his own small empire in Cuba, after leading an expedition into its interior and winning the friendship of the Indian ruler. However, Luis de Torres died within a year.

THE BACK STORY



Paul Vincze was too ill to complete the models, and so Hal Reed finished them, based on Vincze's drawings. Here is a wax overlay before Reed inscribed the legend.



Vincze's clay modeling in near finished stage. Note differences in final medal: astrolabe added below, swords held by Columbus and Torres eliminated, water slanted above, etc.

LEONARD BERNSTEIN

1918 - 1990



MEDALIST: Marika Somogyi

OBVERSE: Portrait, Leonard Bernstein (signature), 1918-1990, MHS monogram.

REVERSE: Bernstein presenting the *Young People's Concert*™.

Leonard Bernstein was born in Lawrence, Massachusetts on August 25, 1918. When his aunt sent her upright piano to the Bernstein home, 10 year old Lenny looked at it, hit the key, cried "Ma, I want lessons," — and the rest is history.

In 1943, Bernstein was appointed assistant conductor of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. A few months later — at the age of 25 — Lenny burst on the national music scene when he substituted at the last minute for an ailing conductor. His brilliant performance earned a tremendous ovation from the audience, and an enthusiastic review on the front page of The New York Times.

Bernstein was named music director of the New York Philharmonic in 1958, becoming the first American-born person to head a top symphony orchestra. In his 11 years in this position, the New York Philharmonic enjoyed unparalleled success and prestige, and the orchestra's recordings became best sellers. His association with the Israel Philharmonic began shortly after the establishment of the Jewish State, when Bernstein conducted seven official

concerts in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa.

Bernstein's classical works include ballets (*Fancy Free*, *Dybbuk*), operas (*Trouble in Tahiti*, *A Quiet Place*), and symphonies (*Jeremiah*, *The Age of Anxiety*, *Kaddish*). Many regarded him as the potential savior of the American musical, because of shows like *Wonderful Town*, *Candide*, and *West Side Story*. Bernstein also wrote the score of the motion picture *On the Waterfront*.

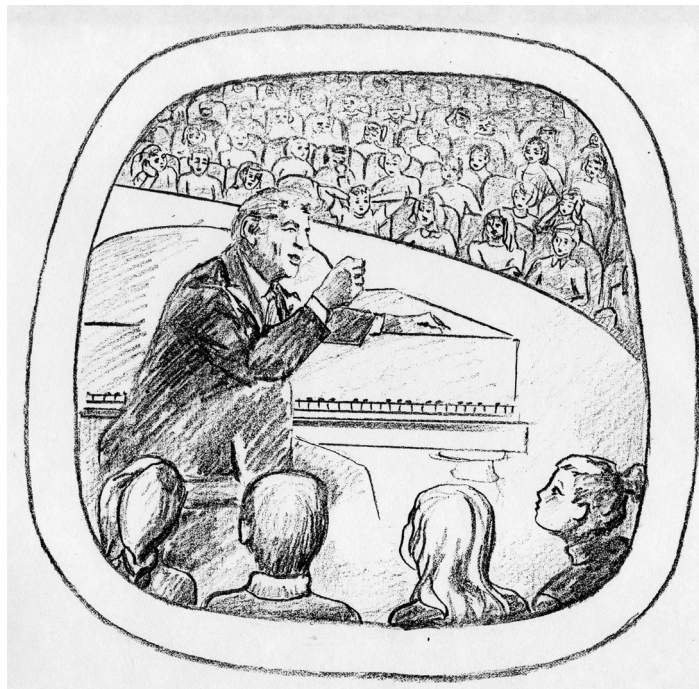
One of Leonard Bernstein's greatest achievements was bringing music to the masses via television, beginning in 1957, on the *Omnibus* program, and then as host of the New York Philharmonic's Emmy Award-winning *Young People's Concerts*™. One critic wrote: "Bernstein lured us onto the stage with him, holding us with his every word until, miraculously, we actually began to understand how music worked and what made it beautiful."

Leonard Bernstein was widely regarded as the most gifted and versatile American musician of the 20th century.

THE BACK STORY



Marika Somogyi's drawings for the obverse. The close-up on the right was accepted.



Ms. Somogyi made a number of changes from her original drawing for the reverse design — Bernstein was shown in profile, hair styles for the girls in the foreground were modified, and some of the youngsters in the audience were made to look more attentive.

ERNESTINE ROSE

1810 - 1892



MEDALIST: Gerta Ries Wiener

OBVERSE: Portrait, Human rights without distinction of sex, Gerta Wiener.

REVERSE: Rose presenting a lecture, Ernestine L Rose 1810-1892.

Ernestine Louise Potowski was born in 1810, the daughter of the village's rabbi, in the ghetto of Piotrkov, Poland. She rejected an arranged marriage at 16, and left her home within a year, traveling at first to Germany, then Holland, and finally settling in England. There she began her career as a public speaker in behalf of social reform, that was to lead to her nickname, "Queen of the Platform." Ernestine married William Rose in 1836, and they emigrated to New York.

The Roses soon opened a small "Fancy and Perfumery" store in their home, where Rose sold her perfumed toilet water and William ran a silversmith shop.

After Ernestine Rose spoke against slavery in South Carolina in 1847, she was threatened with being tarred and feathered. But she did much more than lecture. By petitioning the New York State Assembly for 12 years, Ms. Rose led a successful campaign for the passage of the Married Woman's Property Bill in 1848, that allowed a woman to control her own assets after she was married.

At the first National Woman's Rights Convention, held in October of 1850 in Worcester, Massachusetts, Ernestine spoke with "graceful style of eloquence," asking in part, "We have heard a great deal of our Pilgrim Fathers but who has heard of the Pilgrim Mothers. Did they not endure as many perils, encounter as many hardships?"

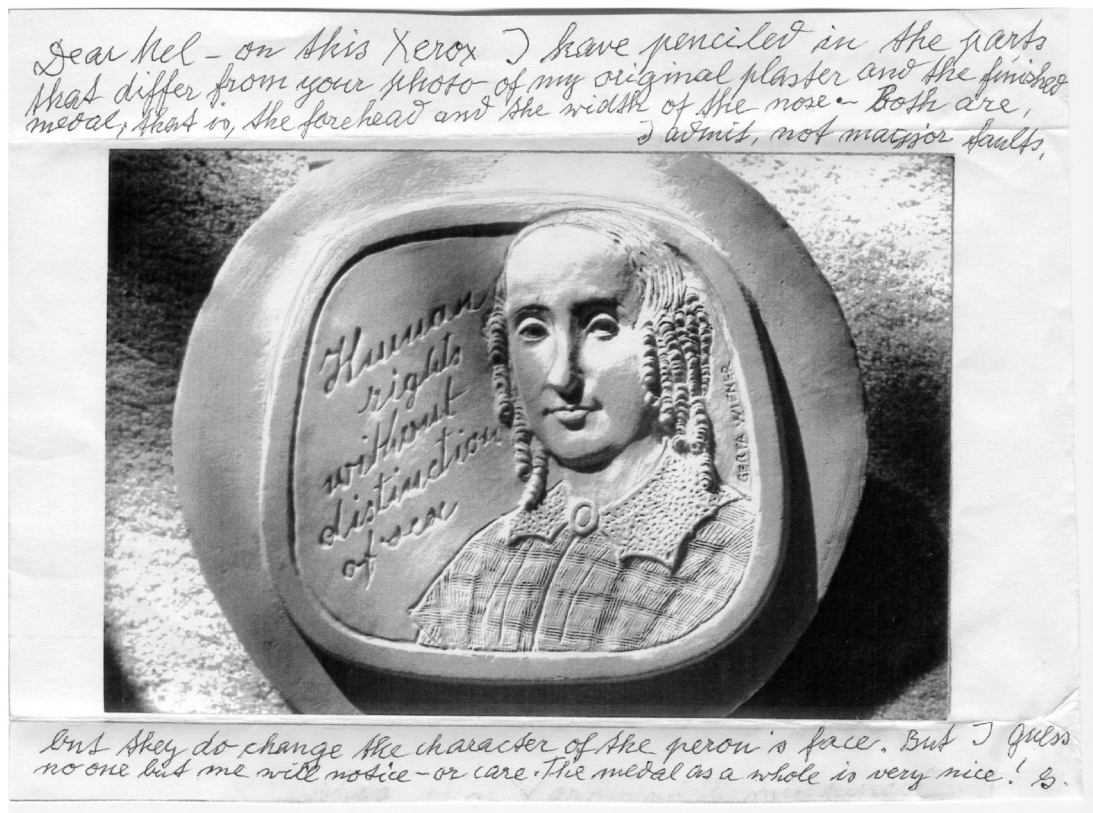
When Susan B. Anthony listed the main causes that led to the formation of the woman's rights movement in America, the educational work of Ernestine Rose was given prominence. And when one newspaper omitted Ernestine from a list that included Susan B. Anthony, Lucy Stone, and other "gifted women," an editorial in the Boston Investigator proclaimed that "to omit her name is like playing Hamlet with the character of Hamlet left out."

In a letter written in 1887, Ms. Rose summed up her life: "For over 50 years I have endeavored to promote the rights of humanity without distinction of sex, sect, party, country or color."

THE BACK STORY



Gerta Ries Wiener's original sketches for the Ernestine Rose medal.



Ms. Wiener was not totally happy with the way the Ernestine Rose medal turned out, as she told Wacks in this note.

ELIE WIESEL

1928 - 2016



MEDALIST: Obverse by Alex Shagin, reverse by Mel Wacks
OBVERSE: Portrait, Elie Wiesel (signature), A. Shagin •1995•.
REVERSE: NEVER SHALL I FORGET.

Elie Wiesel was born on September 30, 1928 in Sighet, a small town in Romania. His grandfather told the young Elie Hasidic tales, which later inspired Wiesel's writings. In 1944, the Nazis deported all of Sighet's 15,000 Jews to the Auschwitz concentration camp. Wiesel's mother and younger sister died in the gas chambers, and his father died later on a forced march to Buchenwald.

In 1957, Wiesel joined the staff of the Jewish Daily Forward, a Yiddish-language newspaper in New York. He became a United States citizen in 1963. Not until 10 years after his release from Buchenwald, did Elie Wiesel begin writing about the Holocaust. His first biographical book *And the World Remained Silent* appeared in Yiddish, and four years later it was published in English as the novel *Night*. This was followed by over two dozen semi-autobiographical novels, plays and essays, all bearing witness to the Holocaust.

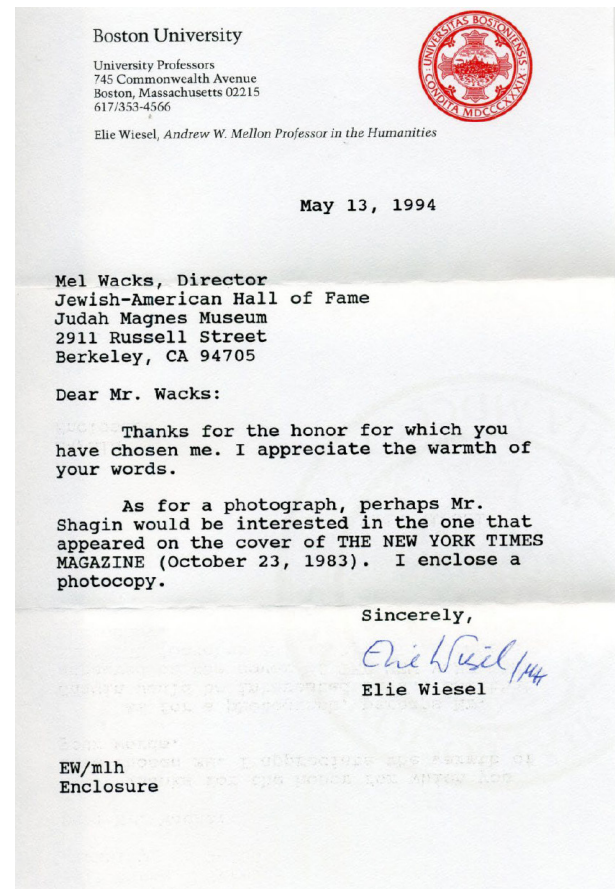
From 1972 to 1976, Wiesel was Distinguished Professor of Judaic Studies at City College of New

York, and then he was appointed Andrew Mellon Distinguished Professor of the Humanities at Boston University. In 1978, Elie Wiesel was named chairman of the President's Commission on the Holocaust, created by President Jimmy Carter, which eventually led to the building of the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. He has been the recipient of numerous literary and humanitarian awards, as well as being awarded honorary degrees from more than 30 institutions.

When presenting Elie Wiesel with the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986, Egil Aavik said "Wiesel is a messenger to mankind. His message is one of peace, atonement, and human dignity. Wiesel's commitment, which originated in the suffering of the Jewish people, has been widened to embrace all oppressed peoples and races." In his acceptance speech, Professor Wiesel commented, "I have tried to keep memory alive. I have tried to fight those who would forget. Because if we forget, we are guilty, we are all accomplices."

THE BACK STORY

Elie Wiesel is one of only a handful of living persons inducted into the Jewish-American Hall of Fame.



An early proposal by Mel Wacks, for the reverse design, was based on a small boy in a famous photograph, taken of a group of Jews being removed from the Warsaw Ghetto by German soldiers on April 19, 1943.

HOUDINI

1874 - 1926

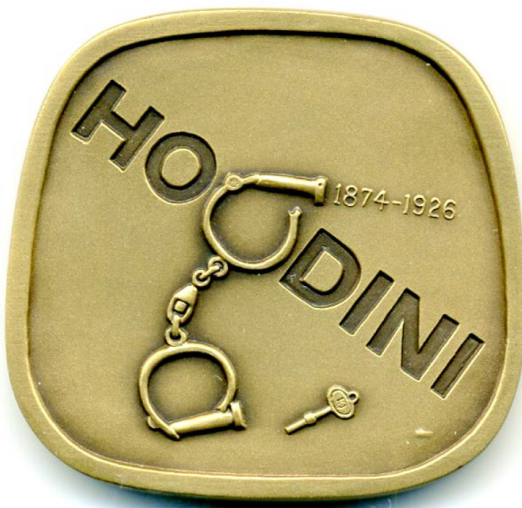


UPPER HALF MEDALIST: Hal Reed

OBVERSE: Portrait, Houdini (signature), HR monogram.

REVERSE: Children in scary Halloween scene.

EDGE: MAGNES MUSEUM.



LOWER HALF MEDALIST: Hal Reed, obverse concept by Mel Wacks

Note that the struck medals fit precisely together, while the cast gold medal is a single piece with portrait obverse and HOUDINI reverse.

49 x 47 mm / Medalcraft Mint
225 Bronze / 85 Pure Silver / 7 Cast 10kt Gold

In 2001, additional medals were produced as follows:
8 bronze (edge: MAGNES),
9 bronze (edge: JEWISH-AMERICAN HALL OF FAME),
36 bronze (edge: 75TH ANNIVERSARY 1926-2001);
5 pure silver (edge: MAGNES),
6 pure silver (edge: JEWISH-AMERICAN HALL OF FAME),
14 pure silver (edge: 75TH ANNIVERSARY 1926-2001);
3 cast 10kt gold (edge: MAGNES),
4 cast 10kt gold (edge: JEWISH-AMERICAN HALL OF FAME),
2 cast 10kt gold (edge: 75TH ANNIVERSARY 1926-2001)

Houdini was born Ehrich Weiss on March 24, 1874 in Budapest, Hungary. His family emigrated to the United States while he was an infant, and his father became the first rabbi in Appleton, Wisconsin. They later moved to Milwaukee, and eventually settled in New York. Young Ehrich's life was transformed after he learned his first trick (the vanishing quarter). At the age of 17, he changed his name to Harry Houdini and began performing in medicine shows, circuses, theaters, etc.

When 100,000 people watched "The King of Handcuffs" wriggle free while hanging from a building in 1916, a newspaper reported that this was "the biggest crowd ever assembled in Washington at one place except for the inauguration of the President." One of Houdini's most spectacular illusions was the "Vanishing Elephant," in which the pachyderm lumbered on to the stage and walked straight into a large cabinet. Almost simultaneously the cabinet's walls would be pulled back and the elephant had disappeared. Houdini said "Even the elephant does not know how it is done."

Four years after the Wright Brothers flew the first practical airplane, Houdini bought a French Voisin biplane and made his first flight. Just five

months later, on March 16, 1910, he became the first person to make a controlled, powered flight of an airplane in Australia.

Houdini was also a motion picture star, making his first appearance in 1918 in a serial *The Mastery Mystery*. Soon he set up the Houdini Picture Corporation where he wrote and starred in *The Man from Beyond* and *Haldane of the Secret Service*. On October 31, 1975 Houdini's pioneering accomplishments earned him a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Houdini was in his dressing room at the Princess Theater in Montreal on October 22, 1926 when a student asked if it was true that Houdini could sustain punches to his midsection without injury. The visitor struck him immediately, not realizing that Houdini had to brace himself. Even though Houdini had stomach pain, he boarded the train for his next appearance in Detroit. Collapsing after the final curtain, Houdini was taken to the hospital, where his ruptured appendix was removed. But it was too late, and he passed away on October 31 — Halloween. At his funeral, Rabbi Bernard Drachman called Houdini "one of the truly great men of the age."

THE BACK STORY



The interior designs of the Houdini double medal were adapted from a model made by Hal Reed years earlier, for a medal that was never produced. The HOLLOWEEN'N (sic) inscription was removed so that the positive and negative designs could fit together, and the dragon on the left was replaced by a witch.

BARBRA STREISAND

B. 1942



MEDALIST: Alex Shagin

OBVERSE: Portrait, •A•Shagin97.

REVERSE: Barbra at Central Park Concert, Barbra Streisand (signature).

Barbra Streisand is a legend. She is the only artist ever to have earned Oscar, Tony, Emmy, Grammy, Golden Globe, Cable Ace, and Peabody Awards! She won the 1968 Academy Award for Best Actress in her motion picture debut (*Funny Girl*), and was awarded her second Oscar in 1976 for composing the song *Evergreen* for her hit film, *A Star is Born*, she was awarded a special Tony as "Star of the Decade," and 10 Golden Globes for acting, directing, producing, songwriting, and as "World Film Favorite." Barbra has achieved more gold (37), platinum (21), and multi-platinum (10) albums than any other artist.

The Streisand Foundation, which she has funded since 1986, has made grants totaling nearly 10 million dollars to American organizations that promote and support civil rights and race relations,

environmental issues, youth-related issues focusing on the economically disadvantaged, and AIDS research. She donated her former 24 acre Malibu Estate to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, where it has been dedicated as a center of ecological studies.

In 1983, Barbra produced, co-wrote the screenplay, directed and starred in the motion picture *Yentl*. Her film company produced a series of six television dramas paying tribute to non-Jews who heroically saved Jews from the Holocaust. And Ms. Streisand was named as honorary chairwoman of the board of directors of Hadassah's International Research Institute on Women when it was established in 1997.

THE BACK STORY



Streisand model in clay, before the final refinements.

Finished plaster model for the Streisand medal.



ISODOR STRAUS

1845 - 1912



IDA STRAUS

1846 - 1912

DAVID SARNOFF

1891 - 1971



MEDALIST: Alex Shagin, from a concept by Mel Wacks

OBVERSE: Portraits of Isidor & Ida Straus, and David Sarnoff, ISIDOR & IDA STRAUSS, David Sarnoff (signature).

REVERSE: Titanic sinking and survivors in lifeboat, M. WACKS A. SHAGIN.

When the “unsinkable” Titanic sank on its maiden voyage, 1,513 lives were lost. Especially hard-hit were the men in First and Second Class and all Third Class passengers.

Born in Bavaria in 1845, Isidor Straus came to the United States at the age of 9, residing first in Georgia and then in New York City. Together with his brother Nathan, Isidor started to sell glassware and china in R. H. Macy’s in 1873. By 1896, the enterprise was so successful that the Strauses purchased the entire store, helping to build what is now one of the largest store chains in the world.

Isidor Straus was a trusted advisor to President Grover Cleveland, and he served briefly in Congress. Isidor was also a founder of an endowment fund for the Jewish Theological Seminary.

As the Titanic was sinking, 67-year-old Isidor was told that he would be allowed to depart with the women and children. But he firmly refused any special treatment, saying he would enter a lifeboat only with the other men. He urged his wife Ida to board

a lifeboat, but she also declined, reportedly saying, “We have been living together for many years, and where you go, I go.” Mrs. Straus’ loyalty and fidelity to her husband. struck a chord with people around the world, Rabbis spoke to their congregations about her sacrifice, articles in Yiddish and German-language newspapers extolled her courage, and a popular song featuring the story of Ida Straus, *The Titanic’s Disaster*, became popular among Jewish-Americans. Over 40,000 people attended the couple’s memorial service.

Following the Titanic disaster, young 21 year-old David Sarnoff remained glued to his wireless earphones in New York for 72 hours straight, and was one of the first to relay the names of the survivors from the Carpathia’s telegraph operator to newsmen and frantic family members.

Born in 1891, in a shtetl near Minsk, Sarnoff came to America at the age of 9. His father died when David was only 15, so he left school, taught himself Morse Code, and the rest is history.

49 x 47 mm / Medalcraft Mint

450 Bronze / 280 Pure Silver / 40 Cast 10kt Gold

In the year 1915, David Sarnoff conceived of the idea that radios could “bring music into homes by wireless,” but his memo to his superiors at the Marconi Company was dismissed as a wild scheme.

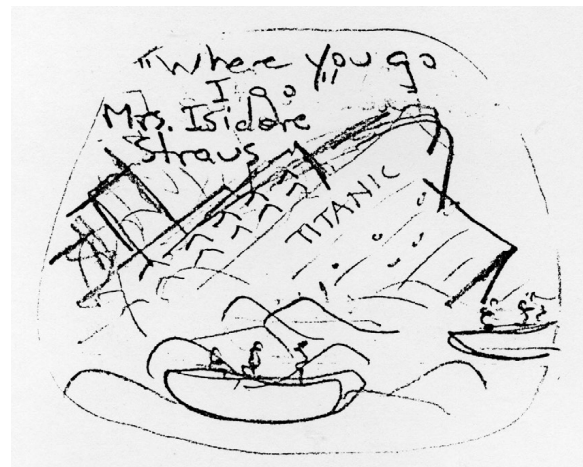
When he joined RCA in 1920, they agreed to develop his concept. Just three years later, Sarnoff wrote, “I believe that television will come to pass in

due course,” and at the 1939 New York World’s Fair he proudly showed off the latest electronic marvel. Five years later, President Roosevelt appointed Sarnoff as a Brigadier General, and the Television Broadcasters Association conferred upon him the title “Father of American Television.”

THE BACK STORY



The portrayal of Ida and Isidor Straus on the medal was inspired by their portraits on this sheet music, published soon after the disaster.



Concept sketches by Mel Wacks.

ASSER LEVY

? - 1682

THE FIRST JEWISH SETTLERS IN AMERICA

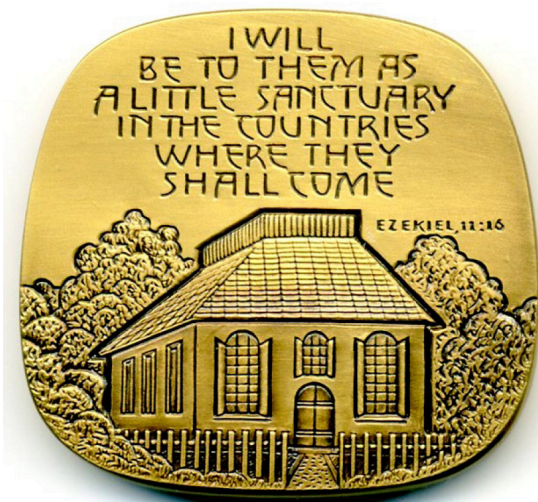
1654



UPPER HALF MEDALIST: Alex Shagin, reverse concept by Mel Wacks

OBVERSE: Asser Levy in foreground, Jewish immigrants arriving from St. Catherine ship, ASSER LEVY, FIRST JEWISH SETTLERS IN AMERICA 1654 NEUW AMSTERDAM, •A•SHAGIN 1999.

REVERSE: THEY CAN REST PROTECTED FROM TYRANNY AND OPPRESSION *HERE*.



LOWER HALF MEDALIST: Alex Shagin

OBVERSE: Mill Street Synagogue, I WILL BE TO THEM AS A LITTLE SANCTUARY IN THE COUNTRIES WHERE THEY SHALL COME, EZEKIAL 11:16.

REVERSE: Interior of Crosby Street Synagogue.

Note that the struck medals fit precisely together, while the cast gold medal is a single piece with Levy on obverse and "THEY CAN REST ..." on the reverse.

Jews were initially denied the distinction of serving in the militia because of the “disinclination and unwillingness of fellow soldiers to be on guard with said nation.” Instead, Jews were required to pay an insulting tax. Asser Levy, one of the first Jewish settlers, fought and won the right to participate in the citizens’ guards in November 1655. After Levy also won the right to carry on trade in the community, he built a prosperous business in real estate and opened a Kosher butcher shop — becoming one of the most prominent New Yorkers of the 17th century.

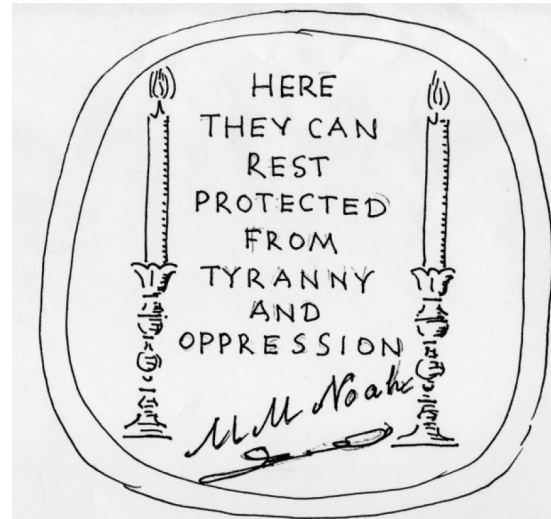
Probably in deference to Stuyvesant, the Jews were not permitted to build a synagogue. However, this situation changed after the surrender of New Amsterdam to the British in 1664. While there is some evidence that services were held in a private home as early as 1695, the first congregation — Shearith Israel — was organized around 1706. Circa 1730, they erected a small synagogue on Mill Lane, which is pictured on this medal. At this time there

were only about 30 Jewish households in New York City.

The synagogue was expanded and rededicated in 1818, when Mordecai Manuel Noah delivered a speech in which he proclaimed that “Until the Jews can recover their ancient rights and dominions, and take their rank among the governments of the earth, this is their chosen country; here they can rest with the persecuted from every clime, protected from tyranny and oppression, and participating of equal rights and immunities.” An excerpt from this speech is featured on this medal, with the encrypted name of “NOAH.”

When the congregation outgrew its Mill Lane building, they moved uptown and built a new synagogue on Crosby Street, which they occupied from 1834 to 1860; its interior is shown on this medal. Historic remnants of the first synagogue can still be seen in Shearith Israel’s current building on West 70th Street.

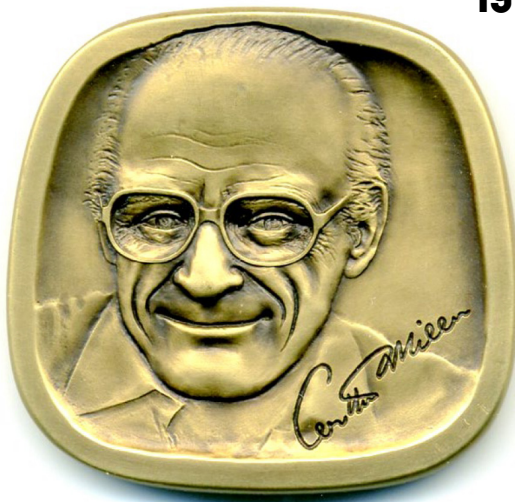
THE BACK STORY



Alex Shagin’s preliminary sketches for medal designs, that were not used.

ARTHUR MILLER

1915 - 2005



MEDALIST: Marika Somogyi

OBVERSE: Portrait, Arthur Miller (signature).

REVERSE: Salesman, ATTENTION MUST BE PAID, MHS monogram.

Arthur Aster Miller was born in New York City on October 17, 1915. After his father's business failed, Miller graduated from a Brooklyn high school, and then dropped out from City College after just two weeks. In the depths of the Depression he took various jobs, including singing on a local radio station, and truck driving. From 1932-34, Miller clerked in an auto parts warehouse, where he was the only Jew employed. There, he had his first real, personal experiences of American anti-Semitism.

With the money he earned, Arthur Miller enrolled in the University of Michigan, graduating in 1938. While still an undergraduate, he wrote *No Villain* in six days, and received the Hopwood Award in Drama.

During World War II he wrote radio plays and worked as a shipfitter's helper at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. In 1944, Miller's first Broadway show *The Man Who Had All The Luck* closed after just six performances, but it received the Theater Guild National Award. Three years later, *All My Sons* premiered and received the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award.

Miller's masterpiece, *Death of a Salesman*, premiered in 1949 and received the Pulitzer Prize, the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award, the Antoinette

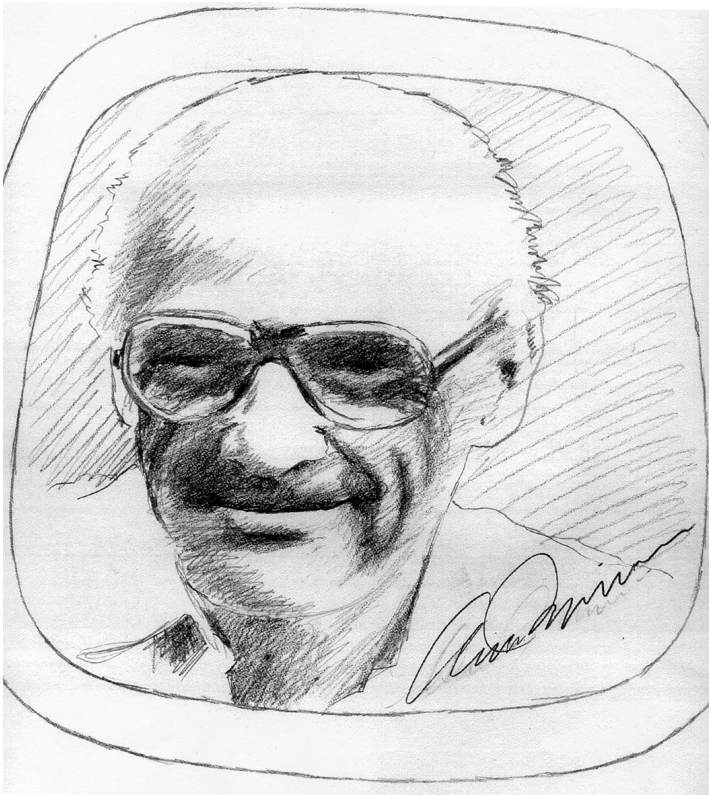
Perry ("Tony") Award, the Donaldson Award, and the Theater Club Award, among others. In 1953, *The Crucible* opened, receiving the Tony and Donaldson Awards. The tale of the Salem Witch Trials was a poignant allegory for the McCarthy hearings that were then taking place. Prophetically, just a few years later, Miller was convicted of contempt of Congress for refusing to name people he had seen 10 years earlier at an alleged Communist writers' meeting. Miller appealed, and the United States Court of Appeals overturned his conviction.

The motion picture that he wrote for then wife Marilyn Monroe, *Misfits*, premiered in 1961. After visiting the Mauthausen death camp in 1964, Miller covered the Nazi trials in Frankfurt, Germany for the New York Herald Tribune. His anti-Fascist play *Incident at Vichy* premiered two years later. Arthur Miller's autobiography *Time-bends* was published in 1987.

Miller served as President of International P.E.N. (Poets, Essayists and Novelists) from 1965 to 1969, where he strove vigorously to organize protests against literary censorship and repression around the world. As a consequence, Miller's works were banned in the Soviet Union.

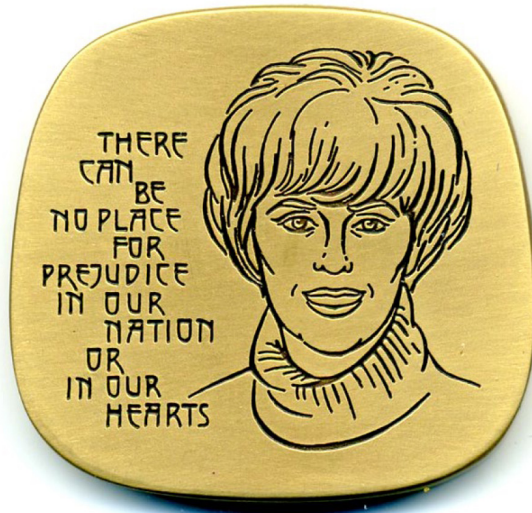
THE BACK STORY

Marika Somogyi's sketches for the Arthur Miller medal.



BESS MYERSON

1924 - 2014



MEDALIST: Alex Shagin

OBVERSE: Portrait, THERE CAN BE NO PLACE FOR PREJUDICE IN OUR NATION OR IN OUR HEARTS.

REVERSE: Bess as Miss America, BESS MYERSON.

Bess Myerson was the first (and, so far, only) Jewish Miss America. She went on to become a popular television personality, a public servant, and a philanthropist.

Bess encountered anti-Semitism during the Miss America Pageant, when an official tried to convince her to change her name to one that was less ethnic, suggesting Betty Merrick. Bess refused. The dark haired statuesque (she was the tallest contestant at 5' 10") beauty was the first recipient of a scholarship, but none of the pageant's sponsors, including Catalina Swimsuits -- chose to use the Jewish beauty from the Bronx as a spokesperson. During her year as Miss America, Ms. Myerson made many personal appearances. One of these was scheduled at an antebellum country club, but just before the event she was told that there had been a terrible mistake, the country club was restricted, and no Jewish person could possibly be welcomed there.

Bess Myerson, determined to fight racial bigotry, traveled around the country speaking in behalf of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai

B'rith, in cooperation with the NAACP and the Urban League.

Many Americans remember Ms. Myerson as Mistress of Ceremonies for *The Big Payoff* (1951-9) and as a panelist on *I've Got A Secret* (1958-67). From 1969-73 as Commissioner of Consumer Affairs of New York City, Myerson was architect of the most far-reaching consumer protection legislation in the country at that time, and was featured on the cover of Life Magazine (July 16, 1971) as "A Consumer's Best Friend ... Bess Myerson on the prowl for stores that cheat us."

From 1983-7 she served under Mayor Ed Koch as Commissioner of Cultural Affairs, where Bess substantially broadened financial support for New York City's art community.

Ms. Myerson is a Founder of The Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York, where she established the Bess Myerson Film and Video Collection with a grant of over a million dollars. She has also made six-figure contributions to The Guild for the Blind,



Hebrew University (for Cancer Research), and SHARE (to launch an Ovarian Cancer Program). Her concern over the rising racial and religious tensions on college campuses led Bess to endow the Bess Myerson Campus Journalism Awards given annually by the Anti-Defamation League.

Bess Myerson's presidential appointments include Lyndon Johnson's White House Conference on Violence and Crime, Gerald Ford's Commission on the National Center for Productivity and Quality of Working Life, and Jimmy Carter's Commissions on Mental Health and on World Hunger. She has also served on the boards of the International Rescue Committee, the Consumers Union, Another Mother for Peace, etc. Hunter College, where she graduated with a music degree in the same year that she was crowned Miss America, later presented Ms. Myerson with an honorary doctorate, as did Long Island University and Seton Hall.

THE BACK STORY



Alex Shagin's original sketch of Ms. Myerson, and an early proposed reverse design.



LEOPOLD KARPELES

1838 - 1909



MEDALIST: Alex Shagin

OBVERSE: Portrait of Karpeles as a flag-bearer, LEOPOLD KARPELES 1838-1909, A•SHAGIN.

REVERSE: Lincoln's letter and a tallit (prayer shawl), thank you heartily for your prayers ... A. Lincoln (signature), CONGREGATION MIKVEH ISRAEL PHILADELPHIA.

Leopold Karpeles, born in Prague, Bohemia in 1838, emigrated to Galveston, Texas at the age of 11. He became an expert rider, and eventually one of the youngest members of the Texas Rangers. Leopold was outspoken about his anti-slavery views, and so he moved to Springfield, Massachusetts, where he subsequently enlisted in the Union Army as a flag-bearer.

Color Sergeant Leopold Karpeles was instrumental in turning the tide of the May 1864 Wilderness Campaign, that saw his 57th Massachusetts Regiment suffer among the highest casualties. Some historians consider this Civil War battle as the turning point, when the North began its slow march toward victory. Karpeles' bravery is described in the hero's own words: "I marched in an inspired manner with my flag waving proudly ... providing courage for my comrades. I'm also a prime target for the enemy. My dedication to my country's flag rests on my ardent belief in this noblest of causes, equality for all."

While hospitalized with nearly total paralysis,

in Washington, D.C. in the Spring of 1864, Karpeles was ministered to by a young volunteer — Sara Mundheim, daughter of the local rabbi — whom he later married. Once his health improved, Karpeles was appointed to the Commerce and Post Office Departments.

He was a major figure in the Grand Army of the Republic, which supported veteran causes, and was one of the six founders of the Medal of Honor Legion.

Leopold Karpeles died in February, 1909 and was buried in the cemetery of the Hebrew Congregation in Washington, D.C. His tombstone is unique, with a replica of the Congressional Medal of Honor emblazoned on its granite surface.

The Karpeles medal's reverse features an excerpt of a letter, in Lincoln's own handwriting, written on May 13, 1862 acknowledging the prayers of the Congregation Mikveh Israel in Philadelphia for the Union cause. Alongside is a tallit (four cornered fringed Jewish prayer shawl).

THE BACK STORY



Alex Shagin's initial sketch for the obverse of the Leopold Karpeles medal, and his revised sketch.

Shagin initially had the tallit in a different position. The possibility of including a Lincoln medal in the design was later rejected.



SAMUEL GOMPERS

1850 - 1924



SAMUEL HILLMAN

1887 - 1946



MEDALIST: Karen Worth

OBVERSE: Portraits, SAMUEL GOMPERS • Samuel Gompers (signature) • 1850-1924, SIDNEY HILLMAN • Sidney Hillman (signature) • 1887-1946, eagle emblem of the National Recovery Act.

REVERSE: Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America union members on strike, WE SHALL FIGHT UNTIL WE WIN, etc.

Samuel Gompers (1850-1924) was born in London on January 27, 1850, after his parents had emigrated from Holland. He left school at the age of 11 to become an apprentice to a cigar maker, his father's occupation. In 1863, his family moved to New York. Within a year, young Samuel had joined Local 15 of the United Cigar Makers Union, and he eventually rose to Second Vice President.

Gompers was a founder of the American Federation of Labor (AF of L), and served as its president for every year but one during his lifetime. During World War I, Gompers was appointed by President Wilson to the advisory committee of the National Council of Defense. Following the war, he led the United States delegation to the International Labor Organization.

Sidney Hillman (1887-1946), a 20 year old former rabbinical student from Lithuania, was among the 100,000 Eastern European Jews who immigrated to America in 1907. Hillman became an apprentice cutter in a Chicago garment factory, working long hours under brutal conditions.

In 1910, Hillman helped settle a major strike, gaining union recognition and agreement to settle future disputes by arbitration.

During the Depression, Sidney Hillman was named to the Labor Advisory Board of the National Recovery Administration, and helped draft the Fair Labor Standards Act. In 1937, Hillman was a founder and first Vice President of the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO). President Roosevelt declared that Hillman, more than any other man, helped to win passage of the national minimum wage law of 1938.

The medal's reverse dramatically portrays the September 1915 strike by 25,000 members of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America. Union President, Sidney Hillman declared that: "All we want is to be recognized as human beings and not machines." Sixty percent of the workers were young women, including Hillman's future wife Bessie Abramowitz, who also became an important labor leader. They worked up to 20 hours in a day for as little as \$1.25.

49 x 47 mm / Medalcraft Mint
125 Bronze / 50 Pure Silver

THE BACK STORY



Karen Worth submitted several sketches for the obverse design, and the one on the right was chosen. The NRA (National Recovery Association) emblem was moved on the final design.

Worth's original concept for the reverse design was accepted, with the addition of a few men and the deletion of the exergue inscription.



ROBERT "ROSIE" ROSENTHAL

1917 - 2007



MEDALIST: Jim Licaretz

OBVERSE: Portrait, Robert 'Rosie' Rosenthal.

REVERSE: Crew of "Rosie's Riveters," JL (monogram).

The day after Pearl Harbor was attacked, Robert "Rosie" Rosenthal enlisted in the U.S. Army. In August 1943, he joined the 418th Squadron of the "Bloody" 100th Bombardment Group, stationed in England. Thirteen B-17s took off for a bombing mission over Munster, but only one returned — aptly named "Rosie's Riveters" — full of holes and flying on two engines. But in spite of the intercom being out, the oxygen system shot-up and a large ragged hole in the skin of the right wing, they had successfully dropped their bombs over the target.



In March of 1944, Rosie's Riveters completed its 25th mission, which completed their military service. But Rosie reenlisted,

saying "I had to do what I could for as long as I was able." This was in spite of the fact that 15 missions was the average life of a bomber crew. Later, Rosenthal was made head of the 350th Squadron after the commanding officer was shot down. Intelligence Officer Marvin Bowman found Rosenthal "one of the great figures of the Air Force; a shy, modest, and patriotic gentleman of truly amazing courage and achievement."

When Rosenthal's plane went down over Germany in September, he broke his arm and nose — but luckily was rescued by the Free French, to whom he had dropped supplies only a few weeks before. As soon as his arm had healed, Rosie returned to his original (418th) Squadron, and was chosen to lead a mission to Berlin on February 3, 1945.

Even after a direct flak hit put an engine on fire, his blazing Fortress still managed to drop its bombs on the targeted Erkner factory before Rosenthal gave the signal to "Abandon ship." The rest of the crew parachuted and, after their B-17 had

descended to about 1,000 feet, Rosenthal was the last to leave with the ground dangerously close, just before the ship exploded. Fortunately, he was found by Russians, who embraced him and took him to a hospital. This was his 52nd mission; there was to be just one more. Rosie flew his last mission after VE Day, to free prisoners from concentration camps.

Robert "Rosie" Rosenthal was one of the most decorated pilots in the Eighth Air Force. He received 16 decorations, including the Distinguished Service Cross for "extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against the enemy," the

Silver Star (with cluster) for "gallantry in action," the Distinguished Flying Cross (with cluster) for "heroism or extraordinary achievement during aerial flight," the Air Medal (with seven clusters), the Purple Heart (with cluster), plus the British Distinguished Flying Cross and the French Croix de Guerre.

Shortly after VE Day, Rosenthal was back in Germany as an assistant to the United States Prosecutor at the Nuremberg Trials where, among other things, he interrogated Nazi leader Hermann Goering.

THE BACK STORY



The medal's design is based on a painting by Gil Cohen (shown here with Rosie), depicting "Rosie" briefing his 418th Squadron crew in 1943 on last minute details before they board their B-17, aptly called "Rosie's Riveters," at Thorpe Abbotts, East Anglia, England, home base of the 100th Bomb Group. Shown are (left to right): Waste Gunner S/Sgt. Loren Darling, Pilot 1st Lt. Robert Rosenthal, Radio Operator T/Sgt. Michael Boccuzzi, and Waist Gunner S/Sgt. James Mack.

MOE BERG

1902 - 1972



MEDALIST: Eugene Daub

OBVERSE: Portrait, MORRIS "MOE" BERG 1902-1972.

REVERSE: Moe as catcher, Moe Berg (signature), DAUB.

Morris "Moe" Berg was born in New York City on March 2, 1902. He was fortunate enough to grow up and do two things in life he really enjoyed — playing baseball and being an intelligence officer! Moe majored in modern languages at Princeton University, where he played on a championship baseball team. After graduating in 1923, he played for the Brooklyn Dodgers as a first baseman. Later, while attending Columbia Law School, Berg joined the Chicago White Sox, initially as shortstop but later as catcher.

Berg was admitted to the New York State bar in 1928. Even after joining a prestigious law firm, he kept playing for the White Sox. But one day, Berg was injured when he tore ligaments in his right knee. In 1931, the Sox traded Berg to the Cleveland Indians, and later he was traded to the Washington Senators. He was a member of the Senators' pennant-winning team in 1933, and set an American League record by catching in 117 consecutive games from 1931-1934 without making an error. However, Casey Stengel is reported to have said that "Berg could speak in 8

languages, but couldn't hit in any of them."

Because Moe was a baseball player with an unusual list of talents, he was always being invited to embassy dinners and parties — and soon became very well known in the Capitol. In 1934, Moe Berg, along with players including Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig, toured Japan with an American all-star baseball team. The government asked him to make some films of Tokyo Harbor and some military installations while he was there, giving Moe his first taste of intelligence gathering — and he was hooked!

In 1938, Berg appeared on the radio quiz show *Information, Please!* It was these appearances that really made him nationally known. He was dazzling, and NBC received as many as 24,000 letters calling for his return. He would appear twice more.

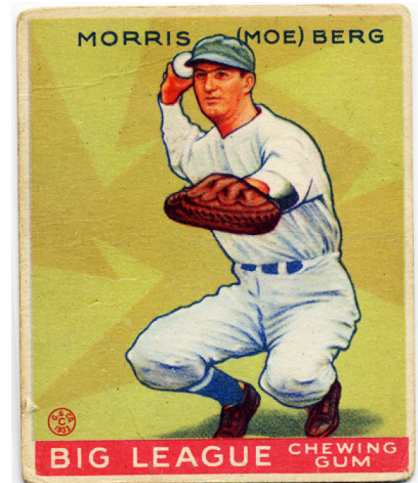
The last baseball team Moe played for was the Boston Red Sox, where he later coached until 1941. Moe Berg got his chance to contribute more to his country when he was asked to tour Latin America for the Office of Coordinator of Inter-American

Affairs, an agency set up to counter German, Italian and Japanese propaganda in Latin America. His natural ability in languages helped Moe to meet government officials, journalists, and businessmen — and he reported much useful information to the agency's head, Nelson Rockefeller. Moe Berg's really big break came in 1943 when he was recruited into the Office of Strategic Services as a civilian employee. His first assignment was a secret mission to Yugoslavia to assess the strength of the two rival leaders there — Draza Mihajlovic and Joseph Broz Tito. He correctly reported that Tito was stronger.

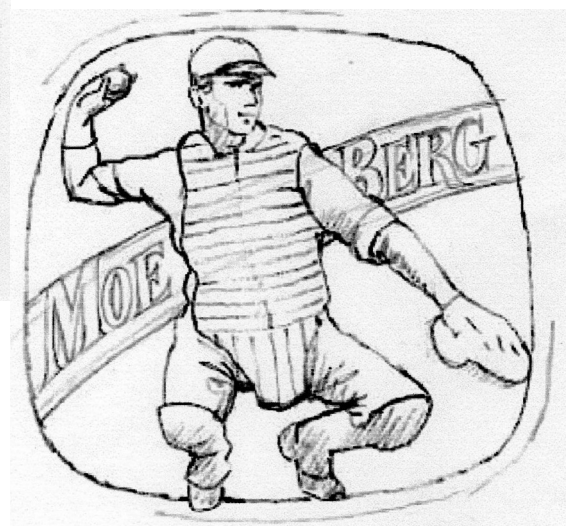
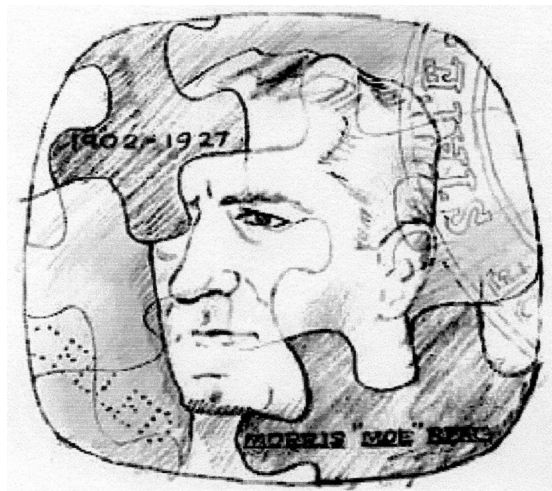
General William Donovan, the head of the OSS, placed Berg on the AZUSA project. This project looked at the enemy's progress in developing nuclear weapons. Berg interviewed scientists in Rome two days after the city was liberated by U.S. troops, to see how far the Italians had progressed in their research. He also entered German-occupied Norway as part of an Allied effort to find and destroy a heavy-water plant. In Switzerland, Berg found out from a visiting German scientist not only how far along the Germans were in developing their weapons of mass

destruction, but also the location of the German scientists. This information came in handy after the fall of Germany, when Allied forces found the scientists and took them to England before Soviet forces could find them.

After the OSS was dissolved in 1945, Moe Berg served on the staff of NATO's Advisory Group for Aeronautical Research and Development. He was awarded the Medal of Freedom by the United States in 1946, but modesty led him to return it. Moe Berg may not be in the Baseball Hall of Fame, but he is the only baseball player honored by both the CIA Hall of Fame and the International Spy Museum!



Eugene Daub made several sketches before the final designs were chosen.



THE BACK STORY

LILLIAN WALD

1867 - 1940



MEDALIST: Virginia Janssen

OBVERSE: Portrait, LILLIAN WALD 1867-1940.

REVERSE: Wald with family, She reacheth forth her hands to the needy, PROVERBS 31:20, JANSSEN.

Lillian Wald was one of the most influential women in the 19th century. She became a legend to the hundreds of thousands of Jewish immigrants who streamed to the shores of the United States in the late 1890's and early 1900's.

She wanted to enter Medical School, but instead enrolled at New York Hospital's School of Nursing. Later, Ms. Wald recruited another nurse, Mary Brewster, and they made themselves available to anyone who needed help. They charged very little for their services and gave freely to those who could not afford to pay. Many times they would spend the night with a sick patient, and they would often fetch surgeons to come when a patient was too ill to be moved.

In 1893, Wald and Brewster created the Henry Street Visiting Nurse Service, which became the major model for visiting nursing in the United States. Their headquarters at 265 Henry Street became the Henry Street Settlement House. In 1898, they had a staff of eleven full time workers, nine of them nurses, and by 1916 there were more than one hundred nurses.

Lillian Wald persuaded the city to begin a program of public nursing, that included putting nurses into the public schools. She spoke out against the popular movement to restrict the immigrants, viewing the immigrants' culture as a valuable contribution to the American way of life. Ms. Wald was appointed to several government committees, and also found time to help found the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. She labored for better conditions for pregnant workers and to abolish child labor.

The Henry Street Settlement still stands on New York's Lower East Side, now serving the neighborhood's Asian, African-American, and Latino population. And today, with over 9,500 highly skilled care providers, the Visiting Nurse Service of New York is the largest not-for-profit home health care agency in the nation, making over two million professional home visits to more than 100,000 patients each year.

In a speech to Vassar students on October 12, 1915, Ms. Wald quoted from Proverbs 31:20, "She reacheth forth her hands to the needy," and these words are inscribed on her medal.

49 x 47 mm / Highland Mint

220 Bronze / 60 Pure Silver / 20 Gold-Plated Silver

THE BACK STORY

Virginia Janssen tried several different styles and locations for the inscription on the medal's reverse.



MILTON BERLE

1908 - 2002



MEDALIST: Eugene Daub

OBVERSE: Portrait, There's just one place for me Near You! E. DAUB.

REVERSE: Family watching television, Milton Berle 1908-2002, DAUB '07.

Milton Berlinger was born in New York City on July 12, 1908, His onstage antics got underway in 1913 when he won a look-alike contest with his impersonation of Charlie Chaplin. Berle appeared as a child actor in silent films, beginning with *The Perils of Pauline* (1914).

In 1942, Milton Berle accepted an offer to star in the *Ziegfeld Follies* on Broadway — and the producers agreed to put his name above the title of the show. This was a huge concession, and Berle says it's the only time in the history of the *Follies* that a performer saw his name above the title! The *Ziegfeld Follies* opened on April 1, 1943, and ran for 553 performances. Berle also found the time to squeeze in camp shows for the GIs, benefits for the Red Cross, appearances to help sell war bonds, and broadcasts for Armed Forces Radio.

In his first four seasons on the air, Berle reigned as "Mr. Television," and was fondly called "Uncle Miltie." In May 1949, he became the first comedian to appear simultaneously on the covers of *Time* and *Newsweek*. In 1948, Milton Berle received one of the

first Emmy Awards ever given for starring in NBC's *Texaco Star Theater*. He also was the first person to be inducted into the Television Hall of Fame (1984), and the first inductee into the Comedy Hall of Fame (1992).

Milton Berle was also a songwriter and author, and appeared in dozens of motion pictures and television shows. He received an Emmy Nomination for his lead role in *Doyle Against The House* on *The Dick Powell Show* in 1961.

Berle was named to the Guinness Book of World Records for the greatest number of charity performances made by a show-business performer over a period of 50 years. And he received an award for entertaining at stateside military bases in World War I as a child performer, in addition to traveling to foreign bases in World War II and Vietnam. The first charity telethon (for the Damon Runyan Cancer Fund) was hosted by Berle in 1949. A permanent fixture at charity benefits in the Hollywood/Los Angeles area, Milton Berle was instrumental in raising millions for charitable causes.

49 x 47 mm / Highland Mint

135 Bronze / 60 Pure Silver / 18 Gold-Plated Silver

THE BACK STORY



Eugene Daub's original sketches for the Milton Berle medal.



40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JEWISH-AMERICAN HALL OF FAME AND 70TH BIRTHDAY OF MEL WACKS

B. 1938



MEDALIST: Obverse by Eugene Daub, reverse by Mel Wacks

OBVERSE: Portrait, MEL WACKS SEVENTY YEARS 2008 5768, EUGENE DAUB.

REVERSE: THE JEWISH-AMERICAN HALL OF FAME.

Jewish-American Hall of Fame founder, Mel Wacks, was born in the Bronx on July 10, 1938. He began collecting at the age of 10, after his father gave him a pouch of old coins. Mel earned Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Electrical Engineering at CCNY and NYU, respectively, and went on to work in several engineering companies — but found his true calling in the world of numismatics.

Mel's articles have appeared in *The Numismatist*, *Coin World*, *Numismatic News*, *World Coin News*, *The Medal*, *The Shekel*, etc. His *Handbook of Biblical Numismatics* was published in 1976, and an updated version is now available to everyone on the Internet.

Mel Wacks founded the Jewish-American Hall of Fame at the Judah L. Magnes Museum in 1969, to honor the unique contributions made by Jewish Americans to all phases of the American way of life. The Jewish-American Hall of Fame has

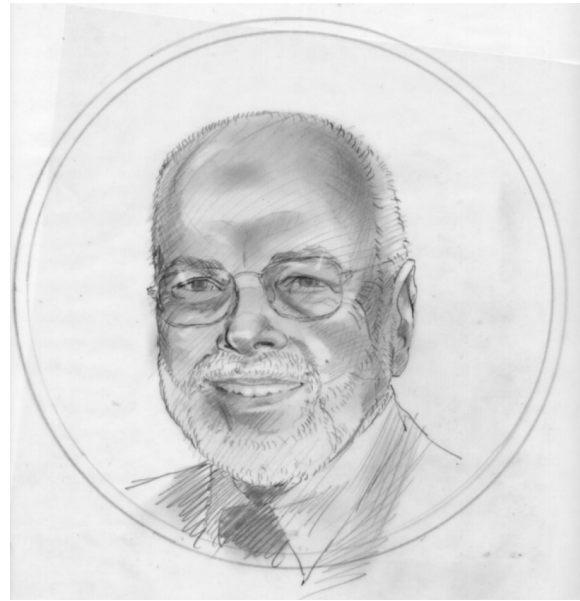
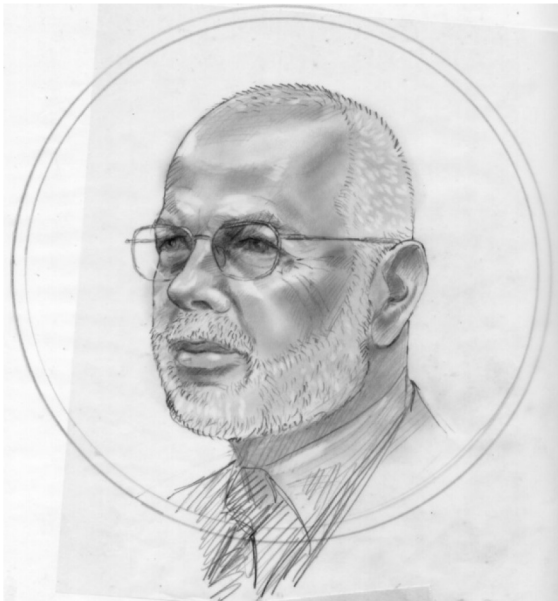
raised over a quarter of a million dollars for non-profit organizations, principally the Judah L. Magnes Museum, the American Jewish Historical Society, the Cincinnati Skirball Museum, the American Numismatic Society, etc.

Jewish-American Hall of Fame medals are prized by thousands of collectors, and are in the collections of the Smithsonian Institution's Archives of American Art, and other museums around the world.

Mel has coordinated the design, production and marketing of the Jewish-American Hall of Fame medals. The award-winning web site www.amuseum.org, written and designed by Mel, is visited by over a million people from around the world every year.

The Jewish-American Hall of Fame plaques are on exhibit at the Virginia Holocaust Museum in Richmond, and the Jewish-American Hall of Fame Medals Collection is a permanent part of the Cincinnati Skirball Museum.

THE BACK STORY



Eugene Daub made several sketches of Mel Wacks in preparation for the medal.

The reverse design was physically pasted up by Mel Wacks from the calligraphy of David Mekelburg. "THE" was added later.



BARNEY ROSS

1909 - 1967



MEDALIST: Eugene Daub

OBVERSE: Portrait, Barney Ross (signature), E.L. DAUB.

REVERSE: Silver Star, SILVER STAR FOR CONSPICUOUS GALLANTRY AND INTREPIDITY IN ACTION AGAINST THE ENEMY WHILE SERVING WITH A MARINE BATTALION IN GUADALCANAL NOV. 18-20, 1942. THE NIGHT I SPENT IN THAT SHELL HOLE WITH FIVE WOUNDED LEATHERNECKS AND TWO SOLDIERS WAS BY ALL ODDS THE TOUGHEST ROUND I'VE EVER SLUGGED THROUGH. SGT. BARNEY ROSS.

Dov-Ber Rasofsky was born in Chicago on December 23, 1909. When he was a 14-year old rabbinical student, his father — who was a rabbi — died in his arms, after being shot in a robbery. As a consequence, his mother Sarah suffered a nervous breakdown and his three younger siblings were placed in an orphanage or farmed out to other members of the extended family. Dov and his two older brothers were left to their own devices. He began running around with local toughs, developing into a street brawler and small-time thief. Dov was even employed by Al Capone.

He changed his name to Barney Ross and went on to become a Golden Gloves champion — called "The Pride of the Ghetto" — eventually dominating the lighter professional divisions. At a time, the late 1920s and '30s, when rising Nazism was using propaganda to spread virulently anti-Jewish philosophy, Ross was seen by American Jews as one of their greatest advocates. Barney Ross was the first

boxer to hold 3 World titles at the same time (World Lightweight and Junior Welterweight Champion 1933-1935 and World Welterweight Champion in 1934 and 1935-1938). Ross was known as a smart fighter with great stamina, and was never knocked out in his career.

In his early thirties, after his boxing career had ended, Ross joined the United States Marine Corps. The Marines wanted to keep him stateside and use his celebrity status to boost morale. Most of the athletes of the era like heavyweight champion Jack Dempsey had ceremonial roles in the military, but Ross insisted on fighting for his country.

Barney Ross was sent to Guadalcanal in the South Pacific, where one night, he and three other stretcher bearers — along with a wounded man and two soldiers — were trapped under enemy fire. All of his fellow Marines were wounded, as was Ross, but he was the only one able to fight. Ross gathered his

49 x 47 mm / Highland Mint

117 Bronze / 82 Pure Silver / 27 Gold-Plated Silver

comrades' rifles and grenades and single-handedly fought nearly two dozen Japanese soldiers, killing them all by morning. Two of the Marines had died in the battle, but Ross carried the remaining man on his shoulders to safety, even though he outweighed Ross by nearly 100 pounds.

Because of his heroism, Ross was awarded two Purple Hearts and America's third highest military honor, the Silver Star "For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy while serving with a Marine Battalion in Guadalcanal Nov. 18-20, 1942," which is inscribed on Ross's Jewish-American Hall of Fame medal.

During his recovery at the hospital from his wounds he had received, Ross developed a habit for the morphine administered for pain. Back in the states, the morphine became a heroin habit. After Barney Ross went to a recovery center and beat his addiction, he gave lectures to high school students about the dangers of drug addiction. Ross' boxing career, World War II heroics, subsequent drug addiction and recovery were depicted in the 1957

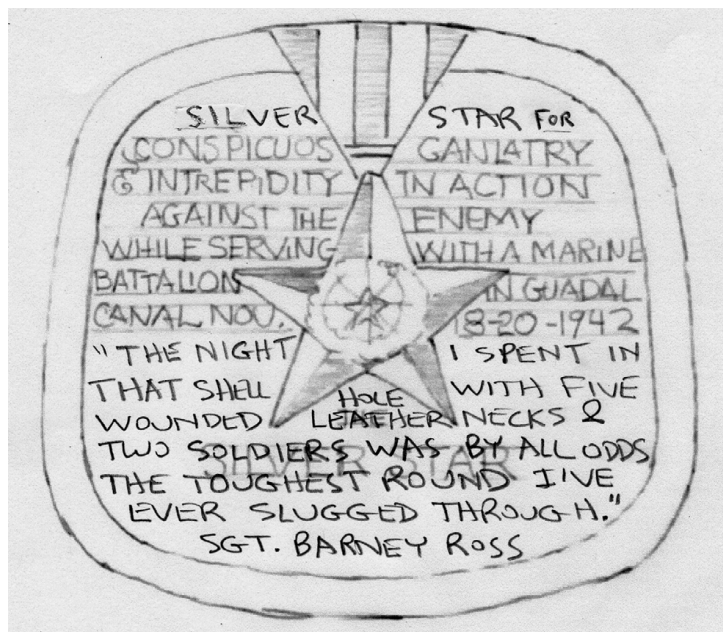
film, *Monkey on My Back*.

Early in 1948, Barney Ross signed up more than 2,000 volunteers to fight for the creation of a Jewish state, but the State Department refused to issue them passports. Ross went on to raise money for the cause and even helped arrange for armaments to be sent to the Irgun.

When Ross died at the age of 57, The New York Times obituary indicated: "A student of the Talmud who turned to prizefighting, Barney Ross was regarded as one of the toughest champions. Outside of the ring, moreover, his heroism on Guadalcanal and his victory over a narcotics habit brought him further recognition as a man who had never been knocked out and had never quit."

In addition to being inducted into The Jewish-American Hall of Fame in 2010, Barney Ross has been inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame, the World Boxing Hall of Fame, the Chicagoland Sports Hall of Fame, the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame, and the National Jewish Sports Hall of Fame.

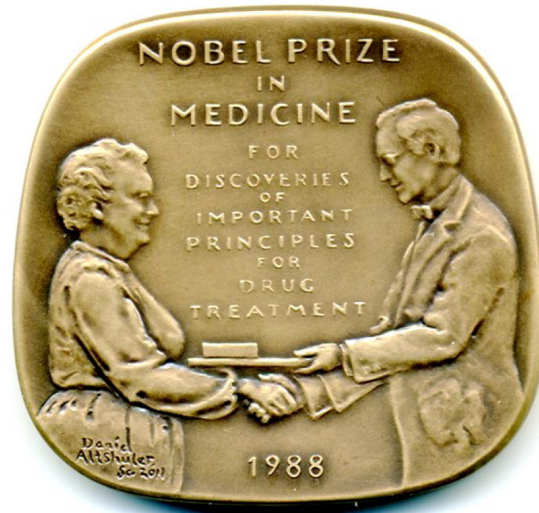
THE BACK STORY



Barney Ross clay in progress, and Daub's preliminary sketch for reverse, with text added by Mel Wacks.

GERTRUDE ELION

1918 - 1999



MEDALIST: Daniel Altshuler

OBVERSE: Portrait, GERTRUDE ELION 1918-1999, DIA.

REVERSE: Elion and Carl XVI Gustaf, the King of Sweden, NOBEL PRIZE IN MEDICINE FOR DISCOVERIES OF IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES FOR DRUG TREATMENT 1988, Daniel Altshuler SC 2011.

Gertrude Elion's exceptional accomplishments over the course of her long career as a chemist include the development of the first chemotherapy for childhood leukemia, the immune-suppressant that made organ transplantation possible, the first effective antiviral medication, and treatments for lupus, hepatitis, arthritis, gout, and other diseases. With her research partner, George Hitchings, she revolutionized the way drugs were developed, and her efforts have saved or improved the lives of countless individuals. Elion stated: "It's amazing how much you can accomplish when you don't care who gets the credit."

Gertrude Belle Elion was born in New York City on January 23, 1918. Soon after graduating from high school, young Gertrude watched her beloved grandfather die painfully of stomach cancer, and deciding: "nobody should suffer that much," she dedicated herself to finding a cure for cancer. In 1937, at the age of 19, Elion graduated from Hunter College summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa. Many years

later, Elion created a scholarship at Hunter College for female graduate students in chemistry.

Unable to find a suitable position, she began volunteering in a chemistry lab, enduring daily anti-Semitic jokes from the company president but gaining valuable experience. By the end of a year and a half, she was paid \$20 a week, out of which she saved enough to enroll at New York University. The only woman in her graduate chemistry classes, she wrote her thesis at night and on weekends while working first as a doctor's receptionist and then as a substitute teacher of high school chemistry and physics. In 1941, she received her Master's degree.

In June 1944, Elion was interviewed by Dr. George Hitchings of Burroughs Wellcome (now GlaxoSmithKline), the pharmaceutical company. Elion was intrigued by Hitchings' research project; and he was impressed by the young woman's intelligence and energy. Over the next decades, the Hitchings-Elion partnership proved immensely fruitful.

In 1950, Elion synthesized a compound (6-

49 x 47 mm / Medalcraft Mint

125 Bronze / 75 Silver-Plated Bronze / 25 Gold-Plated Bronze

MP) that caused complete remissions in children with leukemia, but a relapse invariably followed. After further research, it was discovered that when 6-MP was combined with other medications, approximately 80% of child leukemia patients would be cured. Prior to 6-MP, half of all children with acute leukemia died within a few months.

In 1958, a young British surgeon used 6-MP to temporarily prevent the rejection of a transplanted kidney in a dog. Excited, Elion gave him several similar compounds, in the hopes that one would be even more effective. The following year, he used Elion's drug azathioprine (known as Imuran), to transplant a kidney successfully into a dog named Lollipop. In 1961, doctors used Imuran to perform the first successful kidney transplant between two unrelated humans. Thanks to Elion's work, organ transplantation has become routine today.

After several years of work, the Burroughs Wellcome team triumphantly unveiled acyclovir (Zovirax), the first medication effective against viruses. Elion later referred to acyclovir as her "final jewel.... That such a thing was possible wasn't even imagined up until then."

In 1964, Gertrude Elion received a call from George Mandell of George Washington University, who said, "The kind of work you're doing, you've long

since passed what a doctorate would have meant. But we've got to make an honest woman of you. We'll give you a doctorate, so we can call you 'doctor' legitimately." This was the first of 25 honorary doctorates Elion received.

When it was discovered that one of her drugs was an effective treatment for Leshmaniasis disease, a serious problem in South America, she pushed hard for Burroughs Wellcome to follow up on the matter, regardless of the money involved. As a former colleague remarked, "She has a real social conscience.... In fifty years, Trudy Elion will have done more cumulatively for the human condition than Mother Theresa."

In 1988, Elion received the Nobel Prize in Medicine "for discoveries of important principles for drug treatment," together with Dr. Hitchings and Sir James Black. Few Nobels have gone to scientists working in the drug industry or those without Ph.D.s, and even fewer to women. Gertrude Elion was only the fifth female Nobel laureate in Medicine, and just the ninth in science. In 1991 she was awarded the National Medal of Science and became the first woman to be inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

This information was excerpted from the Jewish Women's Archive.

THE BACK STORY

When several different patinas applied to untrimmed medals were submitted to Mel Wacks for approval, it was discovered that the date of Elion's Nobel Prize was mistakenly indicated as "1989" instead of "1988." Since all of the medals had already been struck, the mint re-engraved the date on the die and restamped all of the medals.



MORDECAI MANUEL NOAH

1785 - 1851



MEDALIST: Eugene Daub

OBVERSE: Portrait, MORDECAI M. NOAH 1785-1851. E.L. DAUB.

REVERSE: Noah writing by candlelight, THE MOST DISTINGUISHING FEATURE of OUR CONSTITUTION IS RELIGIOUS LIBERTY, M. M. Noah (signature), DAUB.

Mordecai Manuel Noah was born in Philadelphia, on July 19, 1785. He was the first-born son of Manuel Noah, an immigrant from Mannheim, Germany, who had served in the American Revolutionary War, and Zipporah Phillips, daughter of Jonas Phillips and Rebecca Machado, whose father had served as hazzan (cantor) of the Shearith Israel Congregation of New York. Though three of his grandparents were Ashkenazi, Noah stressed his Sephardi identity.

As a public servant, Noah served as a Major in the New York Militia, Consul to the Kingdom of Tunis, sheriff of New York and surveyor of its port, and judge in its court of General Sessions. In his lifetime, Noah was editor of half a dozen newspapers. In the Jewish community, Noah served as its chief orator, delivering the major addresses at its important communal gatherings. To Americans he was the representative Jew; to Jews, he was the quintessential American.

Noah wrote to Secretary of State James Monroe in 1811, that his appointment to a consulship would "prove to foreign powers that our government

is not regulated in the appointment of their officers by religious distinction." But unfortunately, even after he had arranged for the freedom of Americans held captive by Barbary Coast pirates, Noah's position as Consul to the Kingdom of Tunis was terminated by Monroe, who stated: "At the time of your appointment, as Consul to Tunis, it was not known that the religion which you profess would form an obstacle to the exercise of your Consul functions." Noah's response, in part, was: "My dismissal from office in consequence of religion ... may hereafter produce the most injurious effects establishing a principle, which will go to annihilate the most sacred rights of the citizen."

In the early decades of the nineteenth century, America's greatest need was for immigrants. Thus, in Buffalo, New York on September 15, 1825, Noah dedicated Ararat as "A City of Refuge for the Jews." Accounts of the Ararat ceremony appeared in newspapers throughout the United States and in England, France, and Germany as well. The event

49 x 47 mm / Medallion Art Company

120 Bronze / 65 Silver-Plated Bronze / 27 Gold-Plated Bronze

presented the Jews as the most desirable citizens a nation could want — able, ambitious, productive, and loyal. To the Jews of the Old World, it portrayed what kind of country America was for the Jews. America's most prominent Jew proclaimed a Jewish state on American soil and welcomed his brethren to settle it.

The ceremonies included the laying of the cornerstone, with its Hebrew prayer "Sh'ma Yisrael Adonai Elohaynu Adonai Echad" (Hear O Israel the Lord is God the Lord is One), and English inscription: "Ararat, a City of Refuge for the Jews, founded by Mordecai M. Noah in the Month of Tishri, 5586 (September, 1825) and in the Fiftieth Year of American Independence." The cornerstone is on now on display at the Buffalo Historical Society.

While Noah's efforts to establish a Jewish homeland in the United States failed, in 1837 he called for: "The Jewish people must now do something for themselves ... Syria [i.e., Palestine] will revert to the Jewish nation by purchase ... Under the co-operation and protection of England and France, this reoccupation of Syria ... is at once reasonable and practicable."

Noah wrote these prophetic words a half-century before Theodor Herzl wrote *Der Judenstaat*, and more than a century before the establishment of the State of Israel.



Bibliography: Abraham J. Karp, *From the Ends of the Earth: Judaic Treasures of the Library of Congress*, 1991).

THE BACK STORY

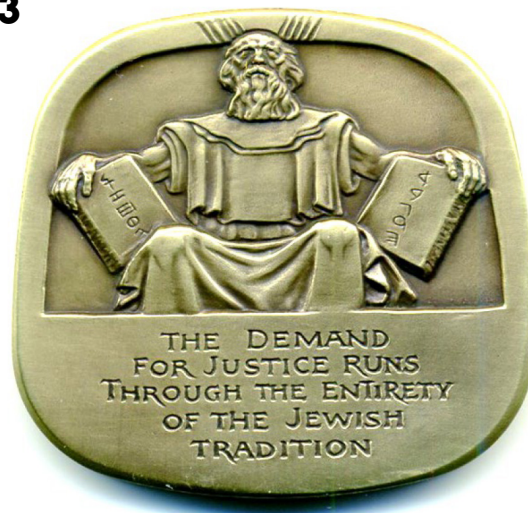


Eugene Daub's clay modeling before inscriptions had been added.



RUTH BADER GINSBURG

B. 1933



MEDALIST: Eugene Daub

OBVERSE: Portrait, JUSTICE RUTH BADER GINSBURG, DAUB.

REVERSE: Moses with Ten Commandments (after Hermon MacNeil), THE DEMAND FOR JUSTICE RUNS THROUGH THE ENTIRETY OF THE JEWISH TRADITION.

When Ruth Bader Ginsburg was appointed by President Bill Clinton and sworn in as the 107th justice to the United States Supreme Court on August 10, 1993, she became the second woman justice and the first Jewish woman ever to sit on the Court.

The Ginsburg medal crowns a year of impressive achievements for sculptor Eugene Daub, who previously attended the dedication of his statue of Rosa Parks in the National Statuary Hall in the United States Capitol — the first full-sized statue authorized and funded by Congress since the 1870s.

The reverse of the medal features Moses, holding the Ten Commandments, represented by the first ten letters of the ancient Hebrew alphabet. The great lawgiver is based on a sculpture by Hermon MacNeil in the eastern pediment of the Supreme Court Building. Inscribed is an extract from Ginsburg's remarks when she received the Albert D. Chernin Award given annually by the Jewish Council for Public Affairs: "I am a judge, born, raised, and proud of being a Jew. The demand for justice runs through the entirety of the Jewish history and Jewish tradition."

Ruth Bader Ginsburg was born in Brooklyn on March 15, 1933. She was an excellent student in school, and was confirmed with honors by the East

Midwood Jewish Center. At James Madison High School, she played the cello in the orchestra, was a member of Arista, was a cheerleader and a baton twirler, and the school newspaper editor.

One of only nine women at Harvard Law School, Ginsburg and her female classmates were asked by the dean why they were occupying seats that would otherwise be filled by men.

After transferring and graduating (tying for first in her class) from Columbia Law School, Ginsburg became the second woman to join the faculty of Rutgers Law School. When she discovered that her salary was lower than that of her male colleagues, she joined an equal pay campaign with other women teaching at the university, which resulted in substantial increases for all the complainants. Prompted by her own experiences, Ginsburg established the ACLU Women's Rights Project in 1972 so that "artificial barriers are removed, and avenues of opportunity [are] held open to women."

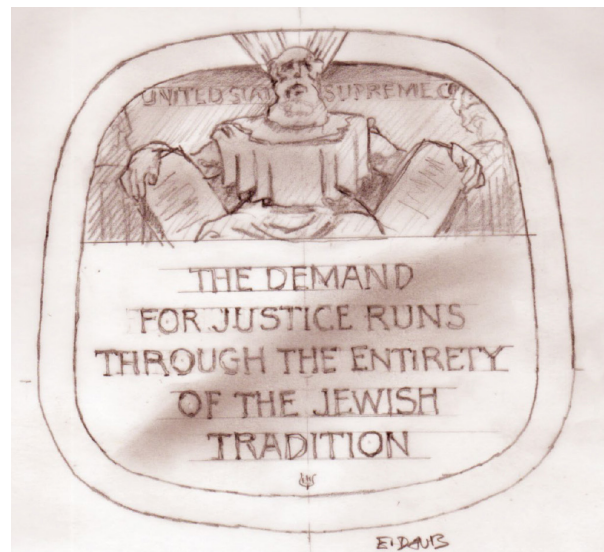
The National Women's Hall of Fame sums up Ginsburg's service on the Supreme Court as: "Justice Bader Ginsburg has become known for her scholarly, balanced opinions and forthright personal courage."

THE BACK STORY



Preliminary sketches of Ruth Bader Ginsburg by Eugene Daub.

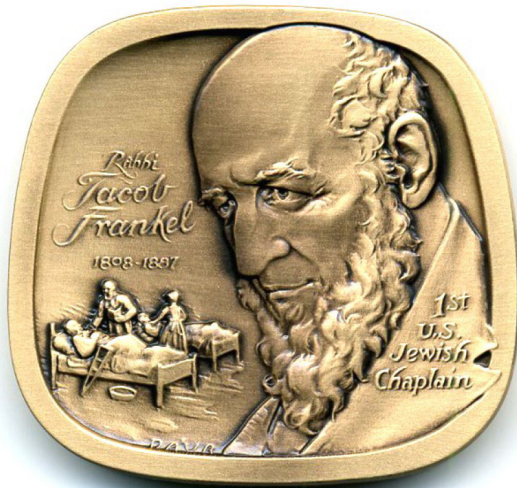
Moses was much smaller in early sketch.



1ST JEWISH CHAPLAIN AND THE 4 CHAPLAINS

RABBI JACOB FRANKEL RABBI ALEXANDER GOODE

1808 - 1887



1911 - 1943

**MEDALIST:** Eugene Daub**OBVERSE:** Portrait, Rabbi Jacob Frankel 1808-1887, 1st U.S. Jewish Chaplain, DAUB.**REVERSE:** Portraits and sinking troop ship SS Dorchester, THE 4 CHAPLAINS, REV. GEORGE FOX, FR. JOHN P. WASHINGTON, RABBI ALEXANDER GOODE, REV. CLARK POLING, DAUB.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Jews could not serve as chaplains in the U.S. armed forces. When the war commenced in 1861, Jews enlisted in both the Union and Confederate armies. The Northern Congress adopted a bill in July of 1861 that permitted each regiment's commander, on a vote of his field officers, to appoint a regimental chaplain so long as he was "a regularly ordained minister of some Christian denomination."

Hoping to create a test, Colonel Max Friedman and the officers of the Cameron's Dragoons elected an ordained rabbi, the Reverend Arnold Fischel of New York's Congregation Shearith Israel, to serve as regimental chaplain-designate. When Fischel, a Dutch immigrant, applied for certification as chaplain, the Secretary of War complied with the law and rejected Fischel's application.

Fischel's rejection stimulated American Jewry to action. Armed with letters of introduction from Jewish and non-Jewish political leaders, Fischel met on December 11, 1861 with President Lincoln to press

the case for Jewish chaplains. Fischel explained to Lincoln that he came to "contend for the principle of religious liberty, for the constitutional rights of the Jewish community, and for the welfare of the Jewish volunteers."

Lincoln promised Fischel that he would submit a new law to Congress "broad enough to cover what is desired by you in behalf of the Israelites." Lincoln kept his word, and on July 17, 1862, Congress adopted Lincoln's proposed amendments to the chaplaincy law, to allow "the appointment of brigade chaplains of the Catholic, Protestant and Jewish religions."

Almost as soon as the law changed, the Board of Ministers of the Hebrew Congregations of Philadelphia requested a Jewish hospital chaplain. Philadelphia was becoming "a central depository for sick and wounded soldiers," and two soldiers of Jewish faith had already died without benefit of clergy.

Jacob Frankel's fellow clergymen nominated the popular rabbi, nicknamed the "sweet singer of

Israel,” and Lincoln signed the commission on Sep. 18, 1862. For three years, he acted as Army chaplain, singing, chanting, and praying with hospitalized and other soldiers.

There are many stories of bravery among the American Military during World War II, but few have captured the imagination and admiration of Americans more than the Four Chaplains — Rabbi Alexander D. Goode; Father John Washington, a Catholic priest; Reverend Clark Poling, a Dutch Reformed minister; and Reverend George Fox, a Methodist minister.

Rabbi Alexander D. Goode was born in Brooklyn, New York on May 10, 1911, the son of a rabbi. He was raised in Washington, D.C., and later studied for the rabbinate at Hebrew Union College, where he received a B.H. degree in 1937, followed by a Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University in 1940.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, Rabbi Goode applied to the Army, receiving his appointment as a chaplain on July 21, 1942. Chaplain Goode went on active duty on August 9, 1942, and was selected for the Chaplains School at Harvard in October.

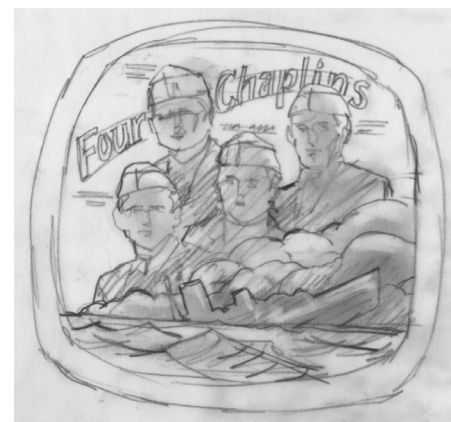
The Dorchester left New York on January 23, 1943, en route to Greenland, carrying the four chaplains and approximately 900 others, as part of a convoy of three ships.

During the early morning hours of February 3, 1943, at 12:55 a.m., the vessel was torpedoed by a German submarine off Newfoundland in the North Atlantic. The torpedo knocked out the Dorchester’s electrical system, leaving the ship dark. Panic set in among the men on board, many of them trapped below decks. The chaplains sought to calm the men and organize an orderly evacuation of the ship. As life jackets were passed out to the men, the supply ran out. The chaplains removed their own life jackets and gave them to others. They also helped as many men as they could into lifeboats, and then linked arms and, saying prayers and singing hymns, went down with the ship.

On December 19, 1944, all four chaplains were posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and the Distinguished Service Cross. In addition, the Four Chaplains’ Medal, was approved by a unanimous act of Congress on July 14, 1960, through Public law 86-656 of the 86th Congress. The medals were presented posthumously to the next of kin of each of the Four Chaplains by Secretary of the Army Wilber M. Brucker at Ft. Myer, Virginia on January 18, 1961.

Bibliography: The Fight for Jewish Chaplains chapter in Blessings of Freedom, by Michael Feldberg Ph.D.

THE BACK STORY



Daub’s early sketches were later revised.

The medal’s reverse design was inspired by the Four Chaplains stained glass window at the Pentagon.

GERTRUDE BERG AKA MOLLY GOLDBERG

1899 - 1966



MEDALIST: Eugene Daub

OBVERSE: Portrait, Gertrude Berg 1899-1966, "YOO-HOO Mrs. Bloom," SANKA/DAUB, MOLLY GOLDBERG in exergue.

REVERSE: Cast of *The Goldbergs*, THE GOLDBERGS, DAUB.

Gertrude Berg was born Tillie Edelstein in New York City in 1899. Her father, Jake Edelstein, ran a resort in the Catskill Mountains where Tillie worked and eventually created and performed skits to amuse the guests' children. She met an older Englishman, Lewis Berg, one summer at the resort. He wooed her, and when she turned eighteen they married. A few years later, she started to pursue her writing and acting careers full time, changing her name to Gertrude Berg.

Berg began writing radio scripts based on a fictional family she had formulated as a young woman, now calling them The Goldbergs, a combination of her mother's maiden name and her husband's last name. *The Goldbergs* premiered on radio in 1929 with Gertrude filling in for the role of Molly until another actress could be found. She was so good that when she was sick for a week the public sent in mass amounts of fan mail asking, "Where's Molly?" Audiences loved listening to the stories and struggles of the Goldberg family and their neighbors,

and instantly took to the warmth and guidance of the accented Molly Goldberg. CBS executives knew they had a hit.

As scriptwriter and star, Gertrude Berg was one of the leading women in radio with one of the longest running shows. Unlike Molly, Berg lived on Park Avenue, owned a country house, and did not speak with an accent or recite malapropisms. She wrote early in the morning, and then went to the studio to produce and star in her show.

In 1947, following her 17 year run on radio, Gertrude saw television as a new exciting media, and a new opportunity to reinvigorate and reintroduce *The Goldbergs* following World War II. After a stage play, *The Goldbergs* premiered on CBS in 1949. Gertrude Berg was lead writer, star, and producer yet again, and *The Goldbergs* climbed in popularity.

In 1950, Gertrude Berg won the first best actress Emmy Award in history, she had a clothing line for housewives, published a cookbook, and

wrote an advice column called *Mama Talks*. Her television show was made into a movie called *Molly* by Paramount Pictures — with Berg on set and in the editing room, exerting her influence as screenwriter and producer.

The Goldbergs eventually moved from the Bronx to the suburbs, and continued until 1954, after which Berg also wrote and produced a syndicated film version that remained on the air for another few years.

Gertrude Berg went on to star in theatrical

productions, and won a Tony in 1959 for best actress in *A Majority of One*. She appeared in a television presentation of *The Word of Sholom Aleichem* in the same year, and then returned to television as writer and star in *Mrs. G Goes to College*, which later became known as *The Gertrude Berg Show*.

Gertrude Berg was the highest paid guest star at the time, and appeared with Steve Allen, Milton Berle, and Perry Como. Her pioneering show *The Goldbergs* blazed the trail for *I Love Lucy* and all other sitcoms to follow.

THE BACK STORY



Daub's preliminary sketch for the reverse (above) was missing the grandfather, who was added in the clay model (below). Depicted are children Arlene McQuade as Rosalie and Tom Taylor as Sammy, Eli Mintz as uncle David, Gertrude Berg as Molly, and Philip Loeb as husband Jake.

JUDITH RESNIK

1949 - 1986



JEFFREY HOFFMAN

B. 1944



MEDALIST: Eugene Daub

OBVERSE: Portrait, JUDITH RESNIK, DAUB

REVERSE: Hoffman repairing the Hubble telescope, DAUB.

JUDITH RESNIK

One of the seven crew members who died in the tragic explosion of the space shuttle Challenger on January 28, 1986, Judith ("J.R.") Resnik was a pioneer for women entering NASA's space program, and the second American woman astronaut to travel in space.

Born Judith Arlene Resnik on April 5, 1949, in Akron, Ohio, to first-generation Jewish Russian parents, Judith was a bright, curious child who, by kindergarten, could both read and solve simple math problems.

Resnik received her master's degree in engineering from the University of Maryland, and began work on her Ph.D. while employed as a biomedical engineer in the neurophysics lab at the National Institutes of Health.

In 1977, NASA began recruiting minorities and women to the space program, and Resnik applied. After receiving academic honors for her doctoral work in electrical engineering, Resnik was one of six women accepted into the

program. She would be the second American woman to fly in space.

During her first six years at NASA, Resnik specialized in the operation of a remote-control mechanical arm that moved objects located outside the spacecraft. In 1984, on her first space flight on the shuttle Discovery, she was responsible for unfurling a 102-foot-long solar sail, which, on future missions, would be used to capture the sun's energy.

NASA's Challenger, Flight 51-L, was Dr. Resnik's second space launch. She was to have assisted in photographing Halley's comet. The mission endured three delays before taking off at 11:38 a.m. on January 28, 1986. Seventy-three seconds into the flight, the space shuttle exploded in midair due to hydrogen leakage caused by faulty O-ring seals. Along with her six crew members, Judith Resnik died in one of the worst space disasters in history.

Bibliography: Judith Resnik by Lynn Cohen, courtesy of www.jwa.org (Jewish Women's Archive)

JEFFREY HOFFMAN

Dr. Jeffrey Hoffman was hooked on space since childhood, in the age of Flash Gordon and Buck Rogers. He grew up, got married, and one night his wife read aloud a passage in a book that said that Jews in New York City are so diverse that they can't be stereotyped; the only valid generalization is that no Jew has ever been an astronaut or will ever be an astronaut. Hoffman decided to prove that wrong, and to honor his Jewish heritage in space.

He moved to Houston, became the first astronaut to log over 1,000 hours in space, and went up into the firmament five times, including a mission to fix the Hubble telescope.

On his first flight, Hoffman took a mezuzah along, and velcroed it onto the sleeping bunk the astronauts used in rotation. "You can't nail a mezuzah to the door of a space shuttle," the astronaut explained with a grin.

On a subsequent flight, he went up 400 miles

at a speed of 18,000 mph — with six other crew members — to repair the Hubble, in September 1993. The Hubble mission occurred during Chanukah, and in addition to a mezuzah and other small Jewish objects, Hoffman took along a dreidel (a Chanukah top). Images were sent back to mission control, so he decided to explain what a dreidel was. He went on TV, talking about Chanukah and spinning the dreidel to demonstrate the game. The little top floated magically in the cabin, suspended in mid-air. Then he showed the cameras — and the world — a small portable menorah he brought along, but of course there was no candle lighting.

Dr. Hoffman has said: "I thoroughly hope that when humans go to settle Mars, Jews will go too and bring their Jewishness. It's part of what makes the world holy and we should bring it wherever we go."

Bibliography: The Ultimate Jewish Traveler by Judie Fein, courtesy of www.chabad.org.

THE BACK STORY



Preliminary clay renderings of both sides of the medal by Eugene Daub.

JOSEPH PULITZER

1847 - 1911



MEDALIST: Eugene Daub

OBVERSE: Portrait (after John Singer Sargent), JOSEPH PULITZER 1847-1911, DAUB.

REVERSE: Standing figure of Pulitzer (after William A. Rogers), OUR REPUBLIC AND ITS PRESS WILL RISE OR FALL TOGETHER, DAUB.

Joseph Pulitzer was born in Mako, Hungary on April 10, 1847. Both his parents were registered by the official Jewish registry under the heading of Religion as "Israelitic" and under Nationality as "Jewish." In accordance with Jewish law, Joseph Pulitzer was circumcised eight days after his birth, and he likely received a traditional Jewish upbringing at Mako's cheder (Jewish primary school).

Pulitzer arrived in Boston from Hungary in 1864 at the age of 17, his passage having been paid by Massachusetts military recruiters who were seeking soldiers for the American Civil War. Pulitzer was a part of Sheridan's troopers, in the First New York Lincoln Cavalry in Company L., where he served for eight months.

On March 6, 1867, Pulitzer became an American citizen, and just two years later he won a seat in the St. Louis state legislature as a Republican. In 1884, Pulitzer was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from New York as a Democrat. He served from March 4, 1885 until April 10, 1886, resigning due to the pressure of journalistic duties.

In 1879, Joseph Pulitzer bought both the St. Louis Dispatch and the St. Louis Post, merging the two papers as the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. With his own paper, Pulitzer developed his role as a champion of the common man, featuring exposés and a hard-hitting populist approach.

Putting aside serious health concerns, in 1883 Pulitzer negotiated the purchase of The New York World, which was in financial straits. Charles Dana, the editor of the rival New York Sun, attacked Pulitzer in print, using derogatory terms like "Judas Pulitzer." Pulitzer crusaded against public and private corruption, filled the news columns with a spate of sensationalized features, made the first extensive use of illustrations, and staged news stunts. In one of the most successful promotions, The World raised public subscriptions for the building of a pedestal at the entrance to the New York harbor so that the Statue of Liberty, which was stranded in France awaiting shipment, could be emplaced.

From 1896 to 1898, Pulitzer was in a bitter

circulation battle with William Randolph Hearst's Journal, in which there were no apparent restraints on sensationalism or fabrication of news. When the Cubans rebelled against Spanish rule, Pulitzer and Hearst both called for war against Spain after the U.S. battleship Maine mysteriously blew up and sank in Havana harbor on February 15, 1898. Congress reacted to the outcry with a war resolution. After the four-month war, Pulitzer withdrew from what had become known as "yellow journalism," and The World became more restrained. Pulitzer waged courageous and often successful crusades against corrupt practices in government and business. He was responsible to a large extent for passage of antitrust legislation and regulation of the insurance industry.

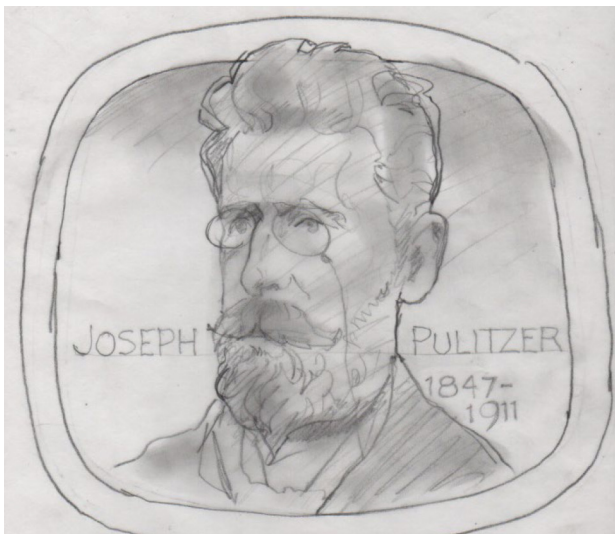
In May 1904, writing in The North American Review in support of his proposal for the founding of a school of journalism, Pulitzer summarized his credo: "Our Republic and its press will rise or fall together. An able, disinterested, public-spirited press, with trained intelligence to know the right and courage to do it, can preserve that public virtue without which

popular government is a sham and a mockery. A cynical, mercenary, demagogic press will produce in time a people as base as itself. The power to mould the future of the Republic will be in the hands of the journalists of future generations."

The Pulitzer Prizes were established in 1917 by money bequeathed by Joseph Pulitzer to Columbia University to recognize artistic and journalistic achievements in the United States. The prizes are given annually to award achievements in American journalism and photography, as well as literature and history, poetry, music and drama. The Columbia School of Journalism opened in 1912, thanks to Pulitzer's philanthropic bequest.

Jewish Americans have won Pulitzer Prizes in many categories. Some of the winners in fiction include Bernard Malamud, Philip Roth, Neil Simon, Art Spiegelman, and Herman Wouk. Pulitzer winning Jewish American playwrights and musicians include Ira Gershwin, George S. Kaufman, Marvin Hamlisch, Arthur Miller, Richard Rodgers, Stephen Sondheim, and Wendy Wasserstein.

THE BACK STORY

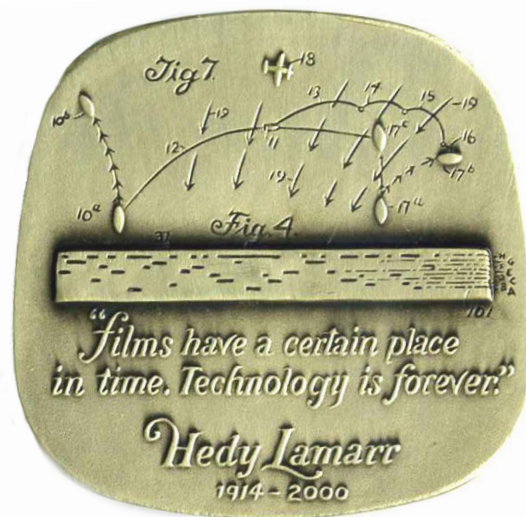


One of Eugene Daub's rejected designs for the obverse, and a preliminary drawing for the reverse — that was deemed to have the figure too small.



HEDY LAMARR

1914 - 2000



MEDALIST: Eugene Daub

OBVERSE: Portrait, DAUB.

REVERSE: Portion of patent, "Films have a certain place in time. Technology is forever," Hedy Lamarr 1914-2000.

Hedy Lamarr (née Hedwig Eva Maria Kiesler) was born to Jewish parents in 1914 in Vienna. In early 1933, at age 18, she starred in the movie *Ecstasy*, where she gained worldwide fame for a brief nude scene.

After she met Louis B. Mayer in Paris, he persuaded her to change her name to Hedy Lamarr and brought her to Hollywood. Lamarr made her American film debut in *Algiers* (1938), opposite Charles Boyer. According to one viewer, when her face first appeared on the screen, "everyone gasped — Lamarr's beauty literally took one's breath away." Hedy made 18 films from 1940 to 1949. After leaving MGM in 1945, she enjoyed her biggest success as Delilah in Cecil B. DeMille's *Samson and Delilah*, the highest-grossing film of 1949. Hedy Lamarr has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame at 6247 Hollywood Boulevard, adjacent to Vine Street.

During World War II, Lamarr learned that radio-controlled torpedoes could easily be jammed, thereby causing the torpedo to go off course. With the knowledge she had gained about torpedoes from her first husband, she thought of creating a

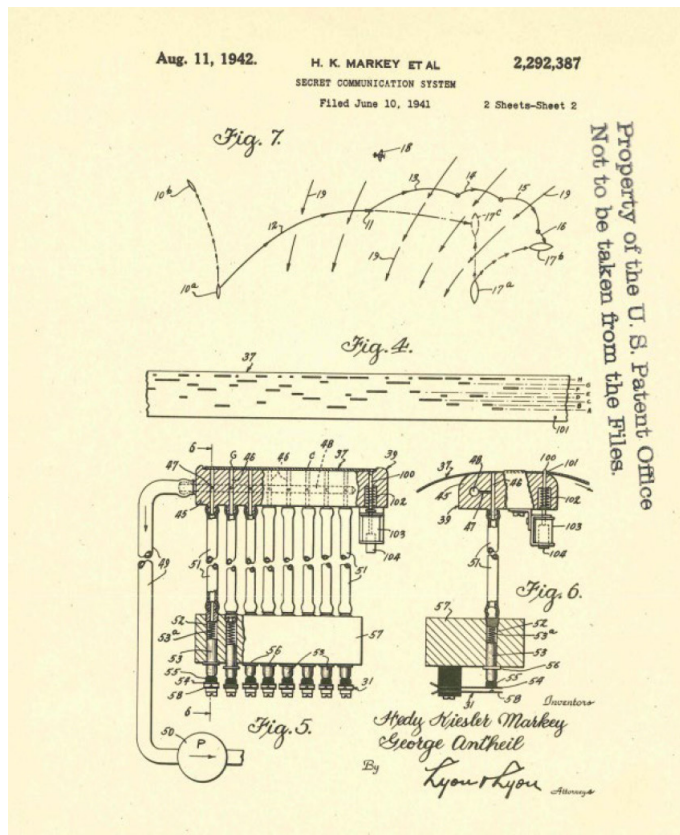
frequency-hopping signal that could not be tracked or jammed. She contacted her friend, composer and pianist George Antheil, to help her develop a device for doing that — and he succeeded by synchronizing a miniaturized player-piano mechanism with radio signals.

Lamarr and Antheil drafted designs for the frequency-hopping system, which they patented. However, it was technologically difficult to implement, and at that time the U.S. Navy was not receptive to considering inventions coming from outside the military — especially from a movie star.

Rather, Lamarr used her celebrity status to sell war bonds. Under an arrangement in which she would kiss anyone who purchased \$25,000 worth of bonds, she sold \$7 million worth in one night.

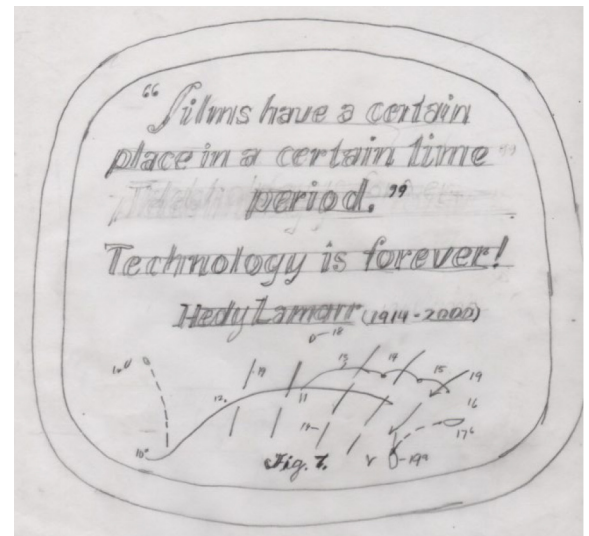
It wasn't until the 1950s, that engineers began experimenting with ideas documented by Lamarr and Antheil. Their work with spread spectrum technology contributed to the development of GPS, Bluetooth, and Wi-Fi. So, whenever anyone uses their cell phone or GPS he or she should think of Hedy.

THE BACK STORY



Shown is part of Hedy Lamarr's patent, a portion of which is portrayed on the reverse of the medal.

Preliminary sketches by Daub for the Hedy Lamarr medal.



RABBI ISAAC MAYER WISE

1819 - 1900



MEDALIST: Eugene Daub

OBVERSE: Portrait, ISAAC MAYER WISE 1819-1900, DAUB.

REVERSE: Torah breastplate, ISAAC MAYER WISE (Hebrew).

Isaac Mayer Wise was one of America's outstanding Jews and a leading rabbi during the 19th Century. His major achievements were the establishment of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations in 1873, the Hebrew Union College in 1875, and the Central Conference of American Rabbis in 1889.

Wise was born on March 29, 1819, in Steingrub, Bohemia. He was a brilliant student, and at the age of nine, his father, a teacher, had taught him all he knew about the Bible and the Talmud. Wise completed his formal education by attending the University of Prague and the University of Vienna for three years.

At the age of 23, in 1842, he appeared before a Beth Din (a rabbinical court) consisting of three well-known rabbis — Solomon Judah Rappaport, Samuel Freund, and Ephraim Loeb Teweles — who together conferred on him the title of rabbi. Two years later, he married Therese Bloch, who was to give birth to ten children.

Wise found that being a rabbi in Bohemia brought him problems with the government, because

of the restrictions still in force against the Jews. He decided to come to America because of its religious freedom, arriving in New York on July 23, 1846. At this time, he changed his name to Wise from its original German spelling, Weiss.

Wise became the rabbi of Congregation Beth El in Albany, N.Y., where he introduced choral singing, confirmation to replace Bar Mitzvah, and the seating of men and women together in pews for services. His changes resulted in much disapproval. In 1850, on the morning before the beginning of Rosh Hashanah, Wise was dismissed at a rump meeting of the board of directors. The next day havoc broke loose between his followers and those who opposed him. Soon after, a group broke away from Beth El and, with Rabbi Wise, established a new Reform synagogue called Anshe Emet ("Men of Truth").

In 1854, Wise went to Cincinnati, Ohio, to become rabbi of Beth K.K. B'nai Yeshurun, a Reform congregation. (Since 1931, the temple has been known as the Isaac M. Wise Temple.) He stayed there

the rest of his life. It was from there that he tried creating a national organization of congregations. He found this a difficult task, as the Orthodox rabbis were at odds with the Reform movement. Nevertheless, despite his setbacks, Wise continued to advocate a union of congregations, a common prayer book, and a college to educate and train American rabbis.

Parts of his dreams came true when, in 1873, delegates from 34 Reform congregations met in Cincinnati and organized the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Two years later, in July 1875, the Union established the Hebrew Union College, the first Jewish seminary in the United States. Wise

became its president and teacher.

Wise was also an organizer and mover in the establishment of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, in 1889. Elected its president, he served until he died on March 26, 1900. This conference adopted the Union Prayer Book that would be used by all Reform congregations.

Bibliography: *Jewish Heroes & Heroines of America: 150 True Stories of American Jewish Heroism*, by Seymour Brody, published by Lifetime Books, Inc., Hollywood, FL.

THE BACK STORY



The portrait on the medal's obverse was based on a plaque of Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise by Boris Schatz. The reverse of the medal is based on a breastplate by Andrew Messmer, presented to Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise in 1899, on his 80th birthday. Both are in the collection of the Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



MEL WACKS

Mel's introduction to coin collecting came in a small leather pouch, given to him by his dad around 1949. As a true collector, Mel still has the pouch and the coins that launched a lifetime hobby. He was initially interested in United States cents,

and assembled a complete collection of Indian Head Cents (1859-1909) and Lincoln Cents (beginning with 1909). In his late teens, Mel began to collect United States Patterns (proposed coin designs), and in his twenties he discovered ancient Judaeen coins.

Mel became an expert on coins of the Bible and wrote *The Handbook of Biblical Numismatics*, which you can read at www.amuseum.org/book. Perhaps Mel's greatest love grew to be art medals. He doesn't remember what kindled this interest, but it combines Mel's appreciation of art and history.

Mel's attention quickly turned from collecting medals to producing them. In 1969, he launched the Jewish-American Hall of Fame series, under the auspices of the Judah L. Magnes Museum, in Berkeley, California — and this is now the longest running series of non-government art medals issued in the United States. To date, over 25,000 medals have been purchased by collectors and museums around the world — raising nearly a quarter of a million dollars for the Judah L. Magnes Museum, the American Jewish Historical Society (where the Jewish-American Hall of Fame has been a division since 2001), the Cincinnati Skirball Museum, the American Numismatic Society, etc.

Besides overseeing this project,

Mel Wacks also has created designs for the reverses of several of the medals: 1995 Elie Wiesel, 1996 Houdini, and 2009 40th Anniversary of the Jewish-American Hall of Fame, as well as suggesting artistic concepts for others, like the 1998 Titanic, 2007 Moe Berg, 2015 Gertrude Berg, etc.

Mel wrote the text and helped design the web site www.amuseum.org/jahf, that is visited by over a million people every year. Portrait plaques (identical with the medals' obverse designs) are on permanent exhibit at the Virginia Holocaust Museum in Richmond (see picture below), and a complete set of medals are part of the permanent collection of the Cincinnati Skirball Museum.

Mel Wacks has been a member of the American Numismatic Association for over 50 years; is a Fellow of the American Numismatic Society; and a Member of the Numismatic Literary Guild, where Mel has won four awards (1999 Best All-Around Portfolio, 2000 U.S. Magazines Best Coin Article, 2002 Best Non-Commercial Web Site, 2007 Best Writer NLG Newsletter).

In addition, Mel has also been President of the American Israel Numismatic Association from 2002 to the present, and has served since 2017 as Editor of their quarterly magazine, *The Shekel, Journal of*



Israel and Jewish History and Numismatics. Mel has had over 100 articles published in leading numismatic publications, including The Numismatist, Coin World, Numismatic News, World Coin News, Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine, The Medal, etc.

In 2009, Mel Wacks was presented with a

Commendation from the Board of Supervisors, County of Alameda, State of California for, in part, producing "one of the most important series of medals in recent years" (see below).

Mel is on the Advisory Council of American Jewish Heritage Month.

Jewish-American Hall of Fame

Division of the American Historical Society

40th Anniversary

WHEREAS, the creation of The Jewish-American Hall of Fame was announced by Mel Wacks on April 14, 1969 with the enthusiastic support of Seymour Fromer, Director and Founder of the Judah L. Magnes Museum in Berkeley, California; the year before, Julian Levin contributed \$500 to get The Jewish-American Hall of Fame started, and in its more than 30 years of association, raised \$171,045 for the Magnes Museum, of which \$40,000 created the Mel & Esther Wacks Educational Fund in 1996; and,

WHEREAS, the unique shape of Jewish-American Hall of Fame medals was created by long-time Berkeley resident Victor Ries, who designed the Judah L. Magnes and Touro Synagogue medals; Victor's sister Gerta Ries Wiener of Berkeley, created eleven medals from the age of 72 into her 90s, and Marika Somogyi, also of Berkeley, sculpted three medals for the Hall of Fame; and,

WHEREAS, The Jewish-American Hall of Fame, through its award-winning web site www.amuseum.org/jahf, routinely attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors annually, many of them students from Alameda County, as well as throughout the United States and around the world; and,

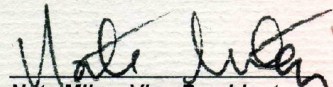
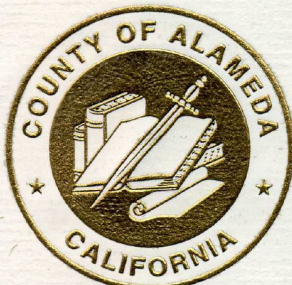
WHEREAS, over 20,000 Jewish-American Hall of Fame medals have been acquired by individuals, synagogues and museums around the world, many stamped with the name of the Magnes Museum on the edge; these are ambassadors of good will that will not decay or disappear with time; some of those who have been honored include: Albert Einstein (artist Robert Russin), Louis Brandeis (Gerta Ries Wiener), George Gershwin (Robert Russin), Golda Meir (Gerta Ries Wiener), Levi Strauss (Hal Reed), Isaac Stern (Gerta Ries Wiener), and Benny Goodman (Marika Somogyi); and,

WHEREAS, The Jewish-American Hall of Fame is the longest series of art medals being produced in the United States; it is also considered to be one of the most important series of medals in recent years (Catalog of the XXII Congress of Fédération Internationale de la Médaille, Helsinki);

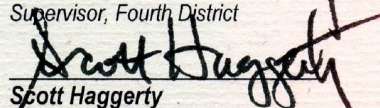
THEREFORE, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, on June 2, 2009, does commend The Jewish-American Hall of Fame for its forty years of promoting unique and accomplished Jewish Americans and sharing their life history with Alameda County residents, and express great appreciation to its legendary founder and executive director, Mel Wacks, for making the County of Alameda a better place in which to live, and extend its best wishes for continued success in the future.



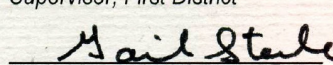
Alice Lai-Bitker, President
Supervisor, Third District



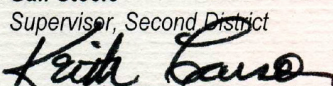
Nate Miley, Vice-President
Supervisor, Fourth District



Scott Haggerty
Supervisor, First District



Gail Steele
Supervisor, Second District



Keith Carson
Supervisor, Fifth District

ABOUT THE MEDALISTS

Stephen Scher, writes in *The Currency of Fame — Portrait Medals of the Renaissance*: “One of the most original and complete means of fulfilling the Renaissance desire for fame and immortality was the portrait medal, for within the confines of this small, durable, portable, and easily reproduced object contained a wealth of information about the subject represented.”



*One of the earliest Jewish portrait medals:
Gracia Nasi c. 1558, probably by Pastorino de' Pastorini.
Image courtesy of Busso Peus Nacht.*

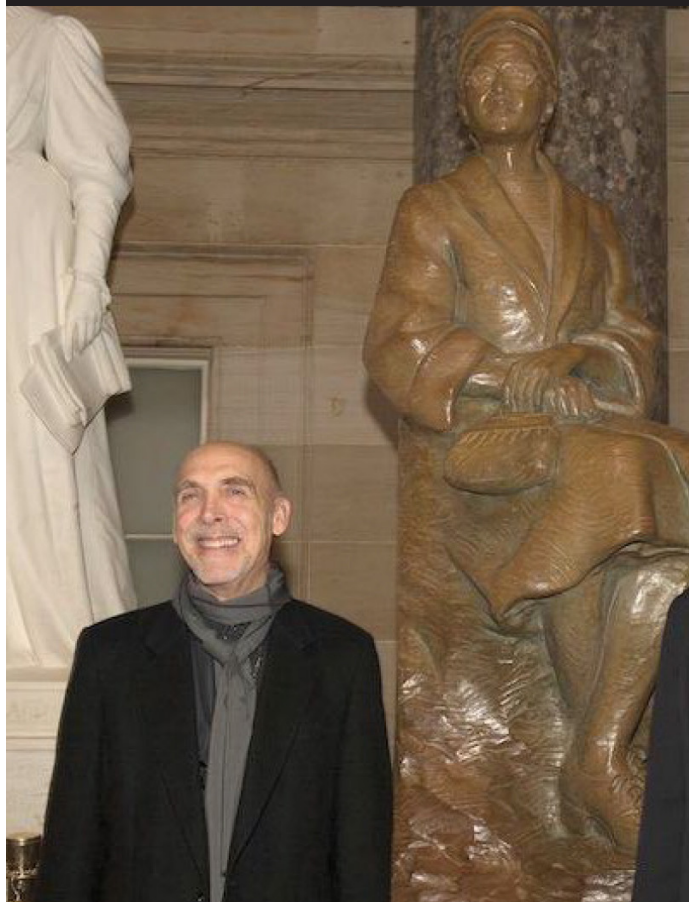
While, during the Renaissance, portrait medals were principally commissioned by the subject himself (or herself) and given to family and friends, the subjects of the Jewish-American Hall of Fame have to merit their nomination by their accomplishments.

The artist must sculpt 8" diameter models, which are then reduced to 2" diameter steel dies. The reduction process precisely reproduces even the most subtle modeling details.

The Jewish-American Hall of Fame has commissioned some of the finest medalists in America (and overseas as well) to create medals of enduring artistic and historic merit.

Our medalists are listed in the order of the number of medals that they sculpted for the Jewish-American Hall of Fame series.

EUGENE DAUB (BORN 1942)



Eugene Daub at unveiling of his Rosa Parks statue.

Eugene Daub, has created more Jewish-American Hall of Fame medals than anyone else — 12 from 2007 through 2019 — including Ruth Bader Ginsburg (2013), Joseph Pulitzer (2017) and Hedy Lamarr (2018).

Eugene Daub is also one of America's leading sculptors of public monuments. His sculpture of Rosa Parks was the first commission of a full-sized statue approved and funded by the U.S. Congress since 1873. It was installed in the National Statuary Hall in the United States Capitol on February 27, 2013 in a ceremony attended by President Obama, House and Senate leaders, and Civil Rights activists.

GERTA RIES WIENER

(1898 - 2000)



Gerta Ries Wiener was a multi-talented artist, sculptor, illustrator, puppet-maker, etc. long before she created her first medal at the age of 70. She created eleven medals for the Jewish-American Hall of Fame from 1971 through 1994, including Golda Meir (1978), Isaac Stern (1982) and Emma Lazarus (1983).

The letters, referring to her development of the Jewish-American Hall of Fame medal designs, that Gerta wrote to Mel Wacks are now in the collection of the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

HAL REED

(1921 - 2003)



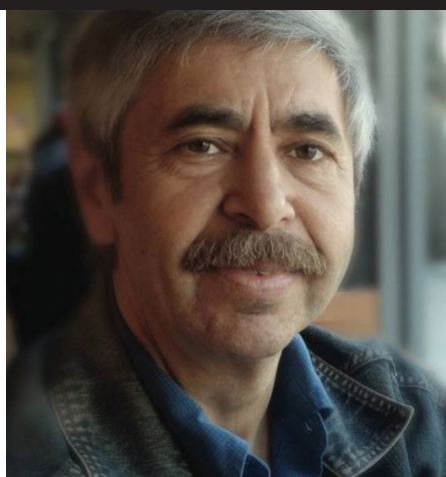
Hal Reed learned to create bas relief maps in the Army, and developed this talent into the ability to produce 3-dimensional designs for medals.

He created five medals for the Jewish-American Hall of Fame, including Jonas Salk (1980), Hank Greenberg (1991) and Houdini (1996), as well as several special medals listed in Appendix B.

Hal also created numerous paintings, sculptures, collector plates, etc.

ALEX SHAGIN

(BORN 1947)



Alex Shagin created six Jewish-American Hall of Fame medals between 1995 and 2002, including Elie Wiesel (1995), Barbra Streisand (1997) and the First Jewish Settlers in America (1999). He also produced a number of special issue medals ranging from Natan Shcharansky in 1982 to Arthur Welsh in 2012. See Appendix B for the full list.

Alex Shagin was formerly a medalist at the Leningrad Mint, before emigrating to America, seeking religious and artistic freedom.

MARIKA SOMOGYI

(BORN 1939)



Marika Somogyi sculpted three Jewish-American Hall of Fame medals, honoring Benny Goodman in 1989, Leonard Bernstein in 1993, and Arthur Miller in 2000. She also created the Jewish-American Hall of Fame Irving Berlin plaque in 1988, and numerous special issue medals honoring Kurt Weill, Judah L. Magnes and Raoul Wallenberg — all in 1982 — through the Shoah (1992). See Appendix B for the full list.

As a child survivor of the Holocaust, Marika sculpted one of the only monuments dedicated to the victims Kristallnacht. This stood for many years at the Magnes Museum before being taken down, due to deterioration.

PAUL VINCZE

(1907-1994)

Vincze's self-portrait medal commemorating his 70th birthday.



Paul Vincze was originally from Hungary, but he later lived in England and then in the south of France. In later life he was often called “The Dean of Medalists,” because of the quantity and quality of his output, as well as the celebrity of his subjects, who often sat for their portraits — including Prime Minister Winston Churchill and President Harry S. Truman. Vincze is also famous for having created official medals for all of Shakespeare’s plays.

Paul Vincze created three medals for the Jewish-American Hall of Fame. These are the only round medals in the series, since he declined to use the unique rounded trapezoidal shape of the others. His medals commemorate Haym Salomon (1973), The Jews Who Helped Columbus — Abravanel, Santangel and Zacuto (1986) — also, Columbus and the Expulsion of the Jews (1992).

ROBERT RUSSIN

(1914 - 2007)



Prof. Robert Russin working on Einstein clay model.

Robert Russin created three medals for the Jewish-American Hall of Fame — Albert Einstein (1970), George Gershwin (1972), and Isaac Bashevis Singer (1984).

Russin was best known for his public sculptures, by one account numbering more than 400 worldwide, including a massive bronze bust of Abraham Lincoln — called the Abraham Lincoln Memorial Monument — which was originally dedicated in 1959 at the highest point on the Lincoln Highway in Wyoming, and the “Spirit of Life” fountain at the City of Hope National Medical Center in Duarte, California.

VICTOR RIES

(1907 - 2013)



Victor Ries — still working at 100.

Victor Ries not only sculpted two medals in the Jewish-American Hall of Fame series — Judah L. Magnes (1969) and Touro Synagogue (1977) — but he also created the unique rounded trapezoidal shape of all the medals (except those by Paul Vincze). Mel Wacks, Director of the Jewish-American Hall of Fame, often says that “the success of this series is due in large part because of their unusual shape.”

The promotion for Metal Man, the documentary about Victor Ries’ life, indicates: “As both a highly regarded teacher and visionary artist, Victor Ries’ work has earned great respect. Victor’s mastery of metal and the range of his work, from small jewelry pieces to large scale art installations, are featured in synagogues and churches.”

ONE-MEDAL ARTISTS

KAREN WORTH

(BORN 1927)



Karen Worth designed her first medal for the Society of Medalists in 1963. Since that time, she has designed more than 600 coins and medals, including the Jewish-American Hall of Fame commemorative for Samuel Gompers and Sidney Hillman, issued in 2004.

JIM LICARETZ

(BORN 1949)



Jim Licaretz worked for the United States Mint as a sculptor-engraver from 1986-1989 and again from 2006-2016; he has more than 10 executed coin designs to his credit. Jim has also worked for the Franklin Mint, and has served as a master sculptor for toymaker Mattel. Jim created the ‘Rosie’ Rosenthal medal for the Jewish-American Hall of Fame in 2005.

VIRGINIA JANSSEN (BORN 1962)



Virginia Janssen designed the 2007 Jewish-American Hall of Fame medal honoring Lillian Wald. Virginia has created designs for the American Numismatic Association and other organizations. Virginia wrote the chapter The Art of Die-Engraving in Coinage of the Americas Conference Proceedings 13, 1999.

JACQUES SCHNIER (1898 - 1988)

Jacques Schnier created the Herbert H. Lehman medal (1974) for the Jewish-American Hall of Fame. Schnier's public commissions embraced extremes of scale, from the design and execution in 1936 of the commemorative half dollar for the opening of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, to monumental statues and bas-reliefs for the Golden Gate International Exposition of 1939-40.



Jacques Schnier at the Judah L. Magnes Museum.

DANIEL ALTSHULER (BORN 1965)

Daniel Altshuler has had his sculptures featured at The White House, the Carter Center Presidential Museum and Library, the Texas A&M Museum, Brookgreen Gardens, the Helen Keller Foundation, the Thoreau Institute Museum and Library, and The Royal Mint. In 2012, Altshuler's busts of Francis Crick and James D. Watson were installed in the permanent collection of the Nobel Museum in Stockholm, Sweden. Daniel Altshuler created the medal honoring Gertude Elion for the Jewish-American Hall of Fame in 2011.



Altshuler sculpting clay portrait of Gertrude Elion.

CALLIGRAPHY

Mel Wacks (born 1938) created the calligraphy, based on the fonts developed by David Mekelburg, for the reverse of the Elie Wiesel (1995), Houdini (1996) and Mel Wacks (2009) Jewish-American Hall of Fame medals. As coordinator of the Jewish-American Hall of Fame medals, Mel also influenced many of the designs; his name appears on the reverse of the Titanic medal (1998).

Susan Fisher was a calligrapher, who designed the English and Yiddish reverse of the Isaac Bashevis Singer medal, issued by the Jewish-American Hall of

Fame in 1984, using a quote personally supplied by Singer.



Wacks at the opening of the Jewish-American Hall of Fame exhibit at the Virginia Holocaust Museum.

APPENDIX A

WOODEN SHEKELS

ISSUED BY THE JUDAH L. MAGNES MUSEUM AND
JEWISH-AMERICAN HALL OF FAME

JAHFW1 / 1968

WOODEN SHEKEL



Models for 1968 Wooden Shekel: Ancient Judaeen Shekel, Year 2=67/8 C.E. and Judah L. Magnes Museum, at 2911 Russell Street, Berkeley, California.



Prototype, with hand written inscriptions. Only 2 made.



1968 Wooden Shekel by Mel Wacks. 1,000 made.

WOODEN PRUTAH

JAHFW2 / 1969

Models for 1969 Wooden Prutah: Ancient Judaeen Prutah, Year 2=67/8 C.E. and Beth Sholom, San Leandro, California, early 20th century.



1969 Wooden Prutah by Mel Wacks. 1,000 made.



WOODEN YEHUD OBOL

JAHFW3 / 1970

Models for 1970 Wooden Yehud Obol: Ancient Yehud Obol, Persian Period in Judaea, 4th century B.C.E. and Jewish Sabbath/Festival Lamp, Germany, 14th century.



1970 Wooden Yehud Obol by Mel Wacks. 1,000 made.

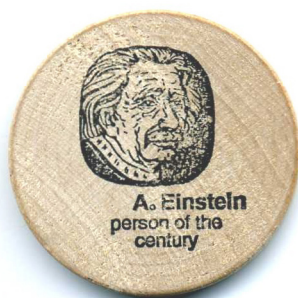


JAHFW4 / 2000

EINSTEIN WOODEN CYBERSHEKEL



Model for 2000 Einstein Wooden Cybershekel: Albert Einstein medal (designed by Robert Russin), issued by the Jewish-American Hall of Fame, 1970.



2000 Einstein Wooden Cybershekel by Alex Shagin. 1,000 made.

JAHFW5 / 2009

WOODEN SHEKEL



Models for 2009 Wooden Shekel: Ancient Judaeen Shekel, Year 2=67/8 C.E. and Judah L. Magnes medal (designed by Victor Ries), issued by the Jewish-American Hall of Fame, 1969.



2009 Wooden Shekel by Mel Wacks. 1,000 made.

APPENDIX B

SPECIAL

COMMEMORATIVE MEDALS

ISSUED BY THE JEWISH-AMERICAN HALL OF FAME

JAHFS1 / 1978

Camp David Peace Dollar by Mel Wacks & Adam Cool (1,000). 38 mm. Counterstamped.



JAHFS2 / 1981

Benjamin Zweifach by Hal Reed, bronze (50), pure silver (3). 63 mm.
Commissioned by U.S.A. Microcirculatory Society. Metal Arts. Struck.



JAHFS3 / 1981

Fred Kahan by Hal Reed, bronze (33), silver-plated bronze (27), gold-plated bronze (1), pure silver (6). 63 mm.
Commissioned by Bnai Zion. Metal Arts. Struck.



JAHFS4 / 1982

Kurt Weill and Lotte Lenya by Marika Somogyi, from a concept by Mel Wacks, bronze (12?).
100 x 102 mm. Cast.
Photos reduced by 25%.



JAHS5 / 1982

Judah L. Magnes/Magnes Museum by Marika Somogyi, bronze (35),
silver-plated bronze (2). 107 x 114 mm. Cast.

Photos reduced by 25%.



JAHS6 / 1982

Raoul Wallenberg by Marika Somogyi, bronze (116). 112 x 114 mm. 105 mm. Cast.

Photos reduced by 25%.



JAHS7 / 1982

Natan Shcharansky by Alex Shagin, bronze (70). 100 mm. Cast.
Photos reduced by 25%.



JAHS8 / 1984

Remember the Eleven by Alex Shagin, bronze (110), silver (117). 38 mm.
+ Pieces sold by issuing organization. Commissioned by Rabbi David Baron. Johnson Matthey. Struck.



JAHFS9 / 1985

David Ben Gurion by Marika Somogyi, bronze (81). 95 x 105 mm. Cast.

Photos reduced by 25%.



JAHFS10 / 1986

Marc Chagall Centennial by Marika Somogyi, silver (183), gold (33). 53 x 45 mm. Cast.



JAHFS11 / 1986

Statue of Liberty Centennial by Marika Somogyi, bronze (?), 111 mm. Cast.
Also in bronze (47), silver (?) and gold plated silver (?). 44 mm. S. Johnson (Italy). Struck.
Photos of large medal reduced by 25%.



JAHFS12 / 1988

Sherlock Holmes by Marika Somogyi, silver (104), gold (9). 42 x 55 mm. Cast.



JAHFS13 / 1988

Peace designed by Nat Sobel, sculpted by Marcel Jovine (restrike), bronze (345), gold-plated bronze (16), silver (100), gold (29). 62 mm. Medalllic Art Co. Struck.



JAHFS14 / 1988

J. F. Kennedy by Paul Vincze, bronze (118), silver (65), gold (5). 56 mm. Medalllic Art Co. Struck.



JAHFS15 / 1989

Charlie Chaplin by Marika Somogyi, silver (50), gold (2). 50 mm. Cast.



JAHFS16 / 1990

Jewish Cultural Achievement Award by Marika Somogyi, bronze with ribbon (80). 76 mm.
Commissioned by the National Foundation for Jewish Culture. Tri-State Mint (Medallic Art Co.). Struck.



JAHFS17 / 1990

JAHFS17/1990: Yosemite by Marika Somogyi, bronze (17). 90 mm. Cast.
Photos reduced by 25%.



JAHFS18 / 1991

Agatha Christie by Marika Somogyi, bronze & leather (30). Medal 65 x 88 mm. Cast.
Photos reduced by 25%.



JAHFS19 / 1993

Ruth Bader Ginsburg/Jewish-American Hall of Fame 25th Anniversary by Hal Reed, silver (150), gold-plated silver (50). 39 mm. Continental Coin Co. Struck.



JAHFS20 / 1994

Oscar Schindler by Marika Somogyi, bronze (38). 102 x 106 mm. Cast.

+ bronze (999 limit) made by IGCMC. 98 x 100 mm. Cast.

Those made by IGCMC. 98 x 100 mm. Cast.

Photos of large medal reduced by 25%.



JAHFS21 / 1994

World War II Victory by Marika Somogyi, bronze (21). 85 x 75 mm. Cast.



JAHFS22 / 1995

Jerusalem by Marika Somogyi, bronze, (33). 113 x 126 mm. Cast.



JAHFS23 / 1995

David/Jerusalem by Alex Shagin, bonded bronze, (55). 158 x 110 mm. Cast.
Photos reduced by 25%.



JAHFS24 / 1997

Shoah by Marika Somogyi, bronze (40). 58 mm. Cast.



JAHFS25 / 1997

Widow's Mite by Alex Shagin, bonded bronze and ancient Hasmonean coin (26). 130 x 135 mm. Cast.
Photos reduced by 25%.



JAHFSP1 / 2000

Aaron Copeland by Alex Shagin, bonded bronze (unique). Est. 150 x 150 mm. Cast.
Photo reduced by 25%.



JAHFS26 / 2004

350 Years of Jewish Life in America by Dana Krinsky, bronze (1,000), silver (91), gold-plated silver (57). 75 mm. Commissioned by Celebrate 350. Highland Mint. Struck.



JAHFS27 / 2004

Haym Salomon/For God and Country obverse by Paul Vincze, reverse by Mel Wacks, bronze (12) 63.5 mm., silver (4) 63.5 mm., gold-plated silver (8) 63.5 mm., silver (30) 22 mm., 1/4 oz. gold (2) 22 mm. Commissioned by Mainstay Films (James Arcuri). Highland Mint. Struck.



JAHFS28 / 2006

Haym Salomon/FEGS obverse by Paul Vincze, reverse by Mel Wacks, bronze (104). 63.5 mm. Commissioned by FEGS (Federation Employment and Guidance Service). Highland Mint. Struck.



JAHFS29 / 2010

Over 1,000 Years of Jewish Life in China by Jamie Franki, bronze (100), silver-plated bronze (55), gold-plated bronze (37). 75 mm. Greco Industries. Struck.



JAHFS30 / 2012

Arthur Welsh by Alex Shagin, bronze (50), silver-plated bronze (35), gold-plated bronze (15) + unnumbered bronze (25), silver-plated bronze (15) and gold-plated bronze (10). 56 mm.

Commissioned by the Greater Washington Historical Society. Medalllic Art Co. Struck.



JAHFS31 / 2012

Haym Salomon/K. K. Mikveh Israel obverse by Paul Vincze, reverse by Frank Gasparro, antique bronze (3), prooflike gold-plated bronze with ribbon (50). 76 mm.

Commissioned by Congregation Mikveh Israel (Philadelphia). Medalllic Art Co. Struck.



JAHFS32 / 2012

Haym Salomon/For God and Country obverse by Paul Vincze, reverse by Mel Wacks, bronze (250). 22 mm. Highland Mint. Struck.



JAHFS33 / 2013

Rebecca and Seymour Fromer (Fromer Scholar Award) by Joel Iskowitz assisted by Mel Wacks, bronze (65) + bronze with ribbon (25). 57 mm. Commissioned by Magnes Collection. Medalcraft Mint. Struck.



JAHFS34 / 2017

Four Chaplains Award by Eugene Daub, nickel with ribbon (50) + (3) Artist Proofs. 70 mm. Commissioned by Army Chaplain Corps. Medalcraft Mint. Struck.



JAHFS35 / 2018

Emma Lazarus Statue of Liberty Award by Gerta Ries Wiener,
bronze Artist's Proof (12) + bronze with ribbon (40). 49 x 47 mm.
Commissioned by the American Jewish Historical Society. Medalcraft Mint. Struck.



JAHFS36 / 2019

Gratz College Award, designed by Katherine Cohen (1859-1914) and sculpted by Phyllis Hamilton,
bronze Artist's Proof (8) + silver with ribbon (25). 63.5 mm.
Commissioned by Gratz College. Highland Mint. Struck.



APPENDIX C

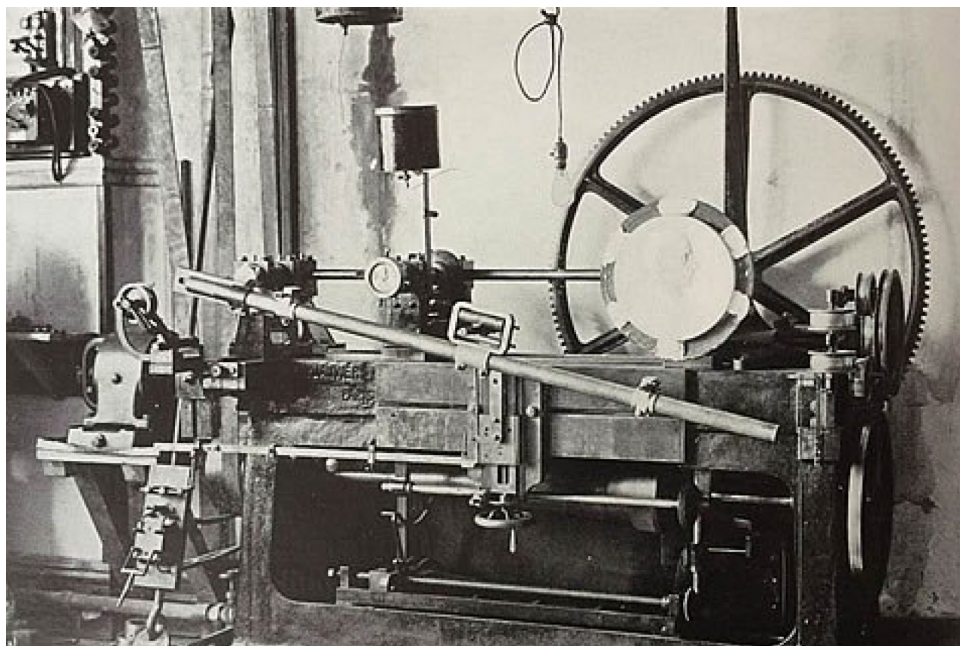
HOW JEWISH-AMERICAN HALL OF FAME MEDALS ARE MADE

First, the portrait or other design is modeled inside a large (about 8") Plaster of Paris basin that is the same shape as the final medal. Shown is Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise artwork.



Here is the final Plaster of Paris model, with details and lettering added.





The plaster model is converted to a negative hard epoxy model (the same size), which is then mounted on a three-dimensional reducing machine, that cuts a steel die in the exact size of the final medal — one die for the obverse (“heads” side) and another die for the reverse (“tails” side).



Pair of steel dies for obverse and reverse of the Jonas Salk medal.



The minting process begins with blanks, in the exact shape of the medal, cut out from sheets of metal, using a trim tool (like a hefty cookie cutter).

The first strike of the Herbert H. Lehman medal, using a multi-ton press brings out rudimentary details.



The second strike brings out additional details.



The third strike is almost sufficient, but tip of nose and portions of star are not fully struck up.



The fourth strike brings out all of the details and relief of the medals. Note that other Jewish-American Hall of Fame medals may have required fewer strikes.





The medals must then be trimmed, using the same trim tool utilized to make the blanks.



In order to apply an antique patina to the medals, they must first be sandblasted.



Next, the medals are oxidized.



The penultimate process is to lightly buff each medal, to give an antique patina (finish).

Finally, the edges are marked with some or all of the following: mint, metal, serial number, etc.



APPENDIX D

JEWISH-AMERICAN HALL OF FAME MEDALS BOXED SETS



The first six Jewish-American Hall of Fame medals (Magnes, Einstein, Brandeis, Gershwin, Salomon and Lehman) boxed in a custom wood display case were promoted and sold by Medallic Art Co. beginning in 1976. According to a letter from MACO dated December 7, 1976, "Strike Order" was 150 bronze sets, 75 silver sets and 25 vermeil (gold-plated silver) sets. A letter from MACO dated February 14, 1979 indicates that the following numbers of sets were "Scrap": no bronze, 33 silver and 17 vermeil. Therefore the net sets sold were 150 bronze, 42 silver and 8 vermeil.

Surviving records indicate bronze serial numbered 401-484 and 801-811 were sold by the

Jewish-American Hall of Fame. And records indicate that the following serial numbered silver sets were sold by the Jewish-American Hall of Fame: 01 and 401-456. Other serial numbers were sold by MACO.

There are no surviving records for the vermeil (gold-plated silver) sets, except that number 19 was sold by the Jewish-American Hall of Fame.

These serial numbers were intended to be higher than the serial numbers that the Jewish-American Hall of Fame sold — to avoid duplicating numbers. The total quantities of medals produced for these sets were within the announced mintage limits, and are included in the mintages for the first six medals — indicated in this book.



High Relief Portraits By Famous Sculptors

As Official Medalist to the Museum for this privately commissioned series, we were very pleased to have been able to offer our established collectors —such as yourself— an opportunity to acquire a rare matched-number set of the Jewish-American Medallion Hall of Fame.

Some of the finest sculptors in America —Paul Vincze, Jacques Schnier, Professor Robert Russin, Victor Ries, Gerta Ries Wiener— are represented in this unique series, and the men they commemorate are fitting subjects for their talent.

It is no small challenge for an artist to sculpt a portrait of the well-known features of a genius like Albert Einstein . . . or to capture the dignity of a Justice Brandeis; the spirit of a Gershwin; the vitality of a Herbert Lehman. In the case of the Haym Salomon medal, sculptor Vincze had no photograph or painting to work from, as no known likeness of the famous patriot exists, nor is there any written description of him. Vincze spent many hours reading about and researching his subject, forming a picture of the man and his character in his mind, and studied a picture of Salomon's daughter for further reference. It is almost certain now that Vincze's fine sculpture will become the accepted "portrait" of Haym Salomon in years to come.

Perhaps no portrait of the man himself could ever express so eloquently the life and work of Judah Leon Magnes as well as does the Jerusalem scene portrayed on the obverse of the Magnes commemorative. Ries' depiction of the Library of the Hebrew University —which Magnes founded— and the Shrine of the Book, are powerfully conceived, enduring tributes to this man of determination and compassion. Sculptor Victor Ries has already won numerous awards for his outstanding work in the field of Jewish ceremonial art, and this commemorative is truly one of his finest works. The technique he used to sculpt the model for the obverse —working directly in bronze rather than in plaster— in itself makes the medal a collector's rarity.

Originally issued one per year, beginning in 1969, in very small limited editions of Fine Silver and Solid Bronze, each medal has been individually hallmarked and serially numbered. Because of their unique shape, the depth of the relief, the quality of the work, and the prominence of both subjects and artists, we are certain that this matched-number set of fine art medals will be a valuable, long treasured addition to your collection.

This brochure accompanied each boxed set of the first six Jewish-American Hall of Fame medals.

APPENDIX E



The exhibit, *"Striking Medals: 50 Years of the Jewish-American Hall of Fame,"* at the Cincinnati Skirball Museum on the historic campus of Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion, marked the first time that a complete collection of this historic series has ever been on public display. The Skirball Museum was the first formally established Jewish museum in the United States, founded in 1913 as the Union Museum.

In addition to showing two sides of each medal issued annually from 1969 through 2019, The exhibition featured all 50 medals, produced annually from 1969 through 2019 in duplicate, so that the reverse of each could be viewed, as well as displays that chronicle the history and origin of portrait medals; the process of creating the medals from original sketches to clay and plaster models and dies; and texts and videos about the accomplishments of the inductees.

Jews have made important contributions to the history and culture of America for hundreds of years in all fields of endeavor, and many of their stories were told in this exhibition.

Visitors viewed the Jewish-American Hall of Fame medals, displayed in the following categories: Early History of Jewish Portrait Medals (Gracia Nasi

and Gershom Mendes Seixas), Christopher Columbus & The Jews (Don Isaac Abravanel, Abraham Zacuto, et al.), Beginnings of Jewish Life in America (Asser Levy, Touro Synagogue, et al.), Music & Literature (Emma Lazarus, George Gershwin, et al.), Pop Culture (Houdini, Hedy Lamarr, et al.), Science & Medicine (Albert Einstein, Judith Resnik, et al.), Advocacy & Education (Ernestine Rose, Judah L. Magnes, et al. Cinci



Abby Schwartz, Director of the Cincinnati Skirball Museum, with Mel Wacks, at the entrance to the exhibit.

DARA TORRES

B. 1967

The Jewish-American Hall of Fame medal series is continuing – and here is a sneak preview of our next medal, by Eugene Daub. The reverse design will be identical to our 2009 medal.

Dara Torres is arguably the fastest female swimmer in America. She entered her first international swimming competition at age 14 and competed in her first Olympic Games a few years later in 1984.

At the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008, Dara became the oldest swimmer to compete in the Olympic Games. When she took three silver medals home – including the infamous heartbreaking 50-meter freestyle race where she missed the Gold by 1/100th of a second – America loved her all the more for her astonishing achievement and her good-natured acceptance of the results.

In total, Dara has competed in five Olympic Games and has won 12 medals in her entire Olympic career (Jewish American swimmer Mark Spitz has won only 11 Olympic medals). In her first Olympic games in 1984, she won a gold medal for the 100-meter relay. She went on to compete in the 1988, 1992, 2000, and 2008 Olympics, winning five medals in 2000, more than anyone else on her team. In 2008, the oldest-ever Olympic swimmer at age 41 (and having given birth only a year earlier), she won two silver medals for 100-meter medley relay and 50-meter freestyle, breaking the American freestyle record she had set at age fifteen. Over the course of her career, she won four gold, four silver, and four bronze medals at the

Olympics and broke the American record speeds for 50-meter freestyle ten times, more than any American swimmer in any event. In the Wikipedia List of Multiple Olympic Medalists, Dara is in 15th place worldwide (including both men and women), in 4th place among Americans, in 2nd place among American women, and in 1st place among all Jewish Americans.

Aside from her amazing accomplishments in the pool, Dara has talents on dry land as well. A composed commentator, guest host and strong interviewee, she has appeared on Fox News, ESPN, CNN, Piers Morgan Tonight, Today Show, Good Morning America, Kelly and Regis, and many others. Additionally, Dara was the first female athlete ever to be featured in the Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Issue, and in 2009, won the ESPY award for “Best Comeback.” To add to Dara’s accolades, she was also named one of the “Top Female Athletes of the Decade” by Sports Illustrated Magazine and in 2019, Dara was inducted into the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Hall of Fame.

Now a top-selling author, her memoir, “Age is Just a Number: Achieve Your Dreams at Any Stage in Your Life,” published in April, 2009 and was listed as one of the top 25 best-selling business books by June. Her second book, “Gold Medal Fitness: A Revolutionary 5-Week Program” hit stands in May, 2010 and is now a New York Times Best-Seller.

Source: daratorres.com

THE BACK STORY



Original sketch by Eugene Daub

Intermediate clay (left) and final Plaster-of-Paris model (right). Note that Dara Torres' name is in a different location on each of the below images.



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